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24 March 1986

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CARICOM IN BELIZE--An official announcement from Belmopan this week states that Belize will be the host country for a meeting of CARICOM Foreign Ministers in May. During the month of January Belize has welcomed a delegation from the CARICOM Secretariate and the High Commissioner of Antigua and Bermuda, Mr. O. E. Henry. The CARICOM officials spent almost a week in Belize discussing new shipping and marketing arrangements between Belize and other CARICOM countries. Mr. Michael Ashcroft, Trade and Investment Advisor to the Belize High Commissioner in London, also visited Belize last week for three days and held discussions with a number of government ministers including the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Curl Thompson. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 2 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/347

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ACLM'S HECTOR DISCUSSES COLLAPSE OF OPPOSITION UNITED FRONT

St Johns OUTLET in English 14 Feb 86 pp 6-7

[Tim Hector column "Fan the Flames"]

[Text]

Recently NDP political leader Ivor Heath posed this question to himself: Why did the attempt at opposition unity before the 1984 General Elections fail? He settled for some generalization about "lack of purpose".

Certainly on the most elementary examination the attempt at unity for the 1984 General Elections between PLM, UPM and ACLM did not fail on what candidates would represent the United Front. That was settled.

Certainly too, there was no argument about programme and policy. That may seem surprising, but it is the gospel truth. ACLM for one, made it abundantly clear, that it would settle for a programme which provided honest government based on a Code of Conduct, long out-lined in its anti-corruption code. Besides that ACLM would have insisted on Educational Reform, putting a new emphasis on science, commerce and technology in the system. ACLM would also have required the establishment of poly-technics specifically designed to equip unemployed youth and women with development skills. After that re-organisation of agriculture to create

the modern farmer, equipped with irrigation, on a viable economic unit of land with planned domestic and export marketing. These keypoints in ACLM's programme in ACLM's view would have provided a programmatic basis for unity.

There being no argument about candidates to represent the United Front, and there being no argument about programme and policy what then led to the breakdown?

The question is important, all important, because it tells us a lot about the nature and character of politics in Antigua. And if so, it speaks volumes about the nature and character of our society.

First of all the empirical facts. The leadership of all three parties ACLM, UPM and PLM had met, beginning a year before the 1984 election, in formal and informal meetings. This process went on, on and off, searching for some formula on which unity could be reached. The process went one step forward and then two steps backward.

Ultimately when the Holy Week Elections of 1984 seemed imminent, a group of citizens, mainly young, saw the leadership

of all three parties and a meeting was convened on Sunday April 1, 1984.

After prolonged discussion between what was described as the 'Big Three' - Hall, Hector and Walter (the names have been put alphabetically to avoid any contention) a formula for unity in a United Front was arrived at which was announced to the larger meeting of party representatives, and concerned citizens. Candidates settled, formula arrived at, this was to be followed by a Public meeting of the United Front in the same week. A mood of expectancy reigned.

Then the same night after the United Front was agreed upon, PLM leader, Robert Hall called both George Walter and Tim Hector to say that the PLM was not proceeding any further with the United Front! And there would be no further meetings! The matter was closed. His word was final. The PLM would not re-open negotiations. Period.

ACLM, it would be recalled, had publicly taken a principled position, that if there was not Opposition unity it would not contest the election. For some unknown reason, or rather for some reason best known to himself, Ivor Heath made no reference to that principled position taken by ACLM in his review. He probably did not wish to give credit where justly due. But we need not bother pursuing such a course of speculation. Publicly they and such as they will always seek not to give ACLM the credit due to it, for fear of their Master. They will always so behave.

What is of central concern, is the question why did the PLM agree in the afternoon to a United Front and then disagree, not in part, but totally to the United Front.

Only two reasons suggest themselves. The first is that the political relations

between Walter and Hall, which resulted in the splitting of PLM into UPM, and part of UPM becoming NDP were so acrimonious that no unity could be arrived at. To be sure, though, there was absolutely no disagreement between Walter and Hall on policy and programme. Absolutely none. In other words, neither had any disagreement, one with the other, which concerned the vital interests of the people they represented, or hope to represent. In plainer terms, whatever disagreement there was between them, was **not** on the high plane of idea or the material interests of the workers, farmers, women and youth who wanted a **change**. Their personal ambitions had obviously collided. The rare question to be sure, was an explosive force beneath the surface.

The second reason for the collapse of the United Front is the manipulation of external powers, to wit the United States.

Opposition parties, **ACLM firmly and definitely excepted** have always been pre-occupied with the idea of making themselves, their views, their associations their political strategies acceptable to the United States. That is their first priority. As far back as 1979, when the PLM was still united, however tenuously, it proposed to send a delegation to Barbados to see then U.S. Ambassador Sally Shelton, to find out if a PLM-ACLM unity would have been acceptable to the U.S.! The notion is contemptible. The practice abominable. It suggests that such politicians are not even nationalist, far less patriotic. **External power, determine their internal relations.** The class from which they come, and the class interests they **really** represent will always impel in that manner.

That single fact, concisely stated, is the bane of politics in Antigua. The traditional parties, ALP, PLM, UPM, NDP are ever and forever toadying to the United States in search of their

imprimatur or stamp of approval. This in effect, means that the interests of the masses, **from the very beginning**, are subordinated to the **interest of an external power.**

In the case of the traditional opposition the practice is even more despicable, and lacking in any kind of sense. In the case of Bird, it makes some sense in the narrowest meaning of the word, in that U.S. support for his regime's corruption ensures his continuance in power. Among opposition parties seeking U.S. support not only makes no sense, it flies in the face of both sense and observable history.

The U.S. **always** supports the most corrupt, reactionary, backward, repressive and predatory regimes **to the very end.** It did so with the Shah of Iran, it did so with the brutal dictator Somoza in Nicaragua, it is doing so, even now, with the 29 year old despicable dictatorship of Duvalier in Haiti even though under siege from the historically great Haitian masses. Even if Marcos in the Phillipines murders opposition leaders, and publicly slaughters a benign opposition leader Benigno Aquino, returning to the Phillipines from self-exile in the U.S., the U.S. continues to support the unspeakable brutalities of Marcos - regardless. Opposition parties here who believe that the U.S. will ever let down Bird and take them up instead, are living in a fool's paradise of their own making.

It is not that the U.S. is inherently evil or deliberately malicious. It is that its "economic interests" or what the U.S. itself describes as its "vital interests" - its investment, its hegemony over trade and markets - **Compels** the United States to support the most backward, the most brutal, the most reprehensible regimes on earth as "strategic allies". Botha in South Africa, the most reprehensible of all is, inclusive in the U.S. category "strategically."

I repeat, it is not evil in the U.S. itself, it is the evil of empire, which compels the United States, upon pain and glaring hypocrisy, to support the most corrupt, the most backward, the most brutal, the cruellest dictators in Asia (Marcos and Diem) in Africa (Mobutu or Bokassa) in Latin America (Pinochet or Somoza) in the Caribbean (Trujillo or Duvalier) in Europe (Franco or Salazar). The universality of this phenomenon does not make it accidental, or incidental, it makes it inherent in the nature and character of "U.S. vital interests", otherwise known as U.S. imperialism.

Among the politics, in the traditional parties, all of them, from captain to cook, there is an utterly ridiculous notion that somehow and somehow by bending at the knee, hands clasped, kneeling or bowing and scratching the ground before the U.S. they can shift the U.S. from supporting Bird, and make the U.S. tilt in their favour. The idea is so absurd that it is comic in the extreme. The important fact to note that in spite of the obvious absurdity of the practice of trying to woo the U.S. away from Bird the leaderships of PLM, UPM, and NDP still persist in that ignorance. It is indicative that the class from which they come are so steeped in dependence on a great power, **that they will support a policy of self-reliance by word of mouth, only to sabotage it when in power.**

Concrete evidence shows that the U.S. supported the Shah of Iran to the very end in spite of or because of his unspeakable brutalities. The U.S. held on to Somoza to the very end. It did the same to Duvalier, who is being toppled now as I write. It is desperately seeking a continuation of Duvalierism without Duvalier.

The importance of the defunct (PLM) the half-defunct UPM and the just born (NDP) to the U.S. is that in the event that Bird becomes totally unacceptable

to the people, as in Haiti, they could continue Birdism without Bird, through one or all of these opposition forces combined. Hence the U.S. courts them by various stratagems and makes them essentially not an opposition force against the Bird regime, but an **Opposition force against ACLM**. It is ACLM's National Economy which the U.S. really opposes and it uses its political house-slaves to carry out the policy. Soon enough, PLM, UPM, NDP will join the ALP in vicious anti-communist diatribes and tirades against ACLM. Just you wait and see.

The point is, the U.S. cannot and will not want a National Economy in Antigua. Hence its efforts to supplant ACLM, as the main opposition force, by dangling the carrot of support before the other opposition forces - PLM, UPM, and NDP. True to their class character they are jumping and leaping at the bait.

The U.S. will not support a national economy, which calls for reducing the food import bill, now some 40 million dollars annually, and instead organising modern scientific farming, through farmers equipped with irrigation, with the best agronomic advice available, and with planned marketing.

The U.S. will not support a national economy, which will re-organise tourism to provide the basis for capital accumulation, and through these local savings establish local industries, locally owned, and controlled. Hence it will seek to promote the anti-communist bogey against ACLM.

The U.S. will not support any programme, aimed at training and equipping the mass of unemployed youth with skills, since the reserve army of unemployed youth, ensures that wages will remain low and U.S. investment can therefore reap larger profits, from cheap labour **all of which profits**, will be repatriated to the U.S. to the benefit of the U.S.

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and to the eternal detriment of Antigua and Barbuda.

Hence the U.S. will seek and is seeking, with the willing compliance of so-called opposition leaders, to construct some opposition force which will supplant ACLM. Thus, in the event the Bird dynasty collapsed like the Duvalier dynasty there will be Birdism without Bird. Take note and watch the manoeuvres they have begun already.

Above all, the U.S. wishes to use compliant, unpatriotic opposition forces, who have no regard for the sovereignty of the people and their country, to prevent ACLM creating a national economy. The point is, once a serious political organisation, socialist in conception, but developing **not** a socialist economy (that is utterly impossible at our stage of development for the productive forces) but a national economy, the idea will spread like wild-fire up and down the length and breadth of the entire Caribbean. In that event chronic Caribbean dependence on the U.S. will be ended and a Caribbean Nation will be born. To prevent that profound and historic eventuality, the U.S. has begun a stop ACLM campaign in Antigua, and through the so-called Caribbean Democratic Union the U.S. is trying to keep the Caribbean in the fragmented economic mess which is our lot.

The U.S. effort to ensure Duvalierism without Duvalier will fail, so too will its efforts to prevent individual island-states from establishing national economies, led by socialist parties, which is the only means which can create a **Caribbean Nation as a Zone of Peace**. For certain U.S. militarism and its militarising of the Caribbean makes it eternally opposed to the Caribbean as a Zone of peace in Caribbean Unity. ACLM the U.S. has identified as the major proponent of this policy, hence the U.S. is using other so-called 'opposition' parties in its stop ACLM drive. Watch and be wise.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ACLM ORGAN SLAMS U.S. ACTIONS IN CARIBBEAN

St Johns OUTLET in English 14 Feb 86 p 8

[Editorial: "It Is the Worst of Times, It Is the Best of Times"]

[Text]

There are strange things going on in this our Caribbean.

In one single, tiny, Caribbean island, three powerful men in the world, from a single super power, have made visits virtually in tandem in the last two years.

U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz was there. When he was there, Schultz categorised the Caribbean island as "a lovely piece of real estate". Straight and to the point. All these Caribbean island-states, are mere pieces of real estate for U.S. capital. That's all. We do not exist for Ourselves, we exist for them, not as people. But as Thing. As Real Estate to be purchased as a commodity. As political real estate to be pulled like a puppet by them.

Then came to Grenada following Schultz; Vice President Bush. He was there to establish, irony of ironies, Grenada's Independence Day. Independence, American style. Put philosophically, it is self-determination applied externally. That is to say, someone other than you determines what you do and what you don't do. They determine what is good for you, what friends you should have and should not have; who you buy

from whom and to whom you sell; where you seek help and where you do it; what party or parties you should support or align with; with whom you should lie in bed and with whom you should not ally.

And now there has come to the same Grenada, the man himself, Reagan, for a contemptuous 4 hours. His imperial majesty will not sleep in the claustrophobia of the little piece of real estate. In Grenada the two things that Reagan will do tell us a lot. Reagan will unveil a memorial to American dead in the illegal invasion of Grenada, which invasion was denounced and condemned by the nations of the world, 108 - 8. The Caribbean exists to honour American dead. That message is clear. Our own dead remain dishonoured, unburied, unhallowed. The same President you will recall honoured Nazi dead on his last visit to Germany. Reagan will in Grenada dishonour the Caribbean with this memorial to the American invaders of Caribbean sovereignty.

The next thing that Reagan will do is to open the terminal at the airport. It is the ultimate insult to Caribbean dignity. The people of Grenada and Cuba had laboured to fulfill a long held Grenadian dream, - A modern airport.

The building of this airport under the leadership of the esteemed **Maurice Bishop**, by Grenada and Cuba, is the most outstanding example of an all - Caribbean effort, to help itself. The Grenadian airport is the best example of what the Caribbean can do, if it unites to help itself.

Reagan trampled on that. U.S. invaders murdered virtually unarmed Cuban airport workers in Grenada. Maurice Bishop himself was murdered by those who march to the beat of empty formalism and the U.S. seized the time, by illegal invasion to murder Caribbean sovereignty. Even Caricom has been put into a permanent coma in the wake of the invasion. It was rent asunder, and replaced by bilateral relations with the U.S. To mark that total and degrading Caribbean dependence, Reagan will open the Terminal building in Grenada, to emphasise the terminal illness being injected into the Caribbean. To formalise this lick-spittle dependence, Reagan once again, called on the misleaders of the Caribbean to be present at the formal enthronement of U.S. domination over the economic, political and economic life of this our region. And they all, having been summoned by His Imperial Majesty, will rush there hoping the Master will promise them some crumbs.

Grenada it would seem, is the place where the U.S. has chosen to stage its media (x-rated) extravaganzas starring Secretary of State Schultz, Vice President Bush, and President Reagan himself.

At the same time, from Antigua and the military Death Squad they have established here the U.S. intends to drown the legitimate aspirations of the Caribbean people, for Caribbean unity in popular power, as a Zone of Peace, in a sea of blood.

But in history the will and struggle of peoples for freedom is unkillable and unconquerable. Thereafter at this very moment in time when U.S. domi-

nance in the Region seems most omnipotent, it is at this very moment that the people have engaged in a momentous and heroic struggle to end the 29 year U.S. supported dictatorship of Duvalier whose unspeakable brutalities against the people, whose \$500 million plunder of the treasury have been seen by the U.S. as defense of "democracy" against "communism". It is the crudest violation of both common sense and truth.

The glorious struggle of the mass of Haitians people at this time, reminds us that Haiti was not only the first territory to abolish slavery by revolution in human history, it was the first independent nation in the Caribbean, and the first Black nation to establish its independence anywhere in the world, joining unconquered and uncolonised Ethiopia.

Haiti might well again mark a new beginning for the entire Caribbean. It can mean a new Caribbean freed from the American big stick and illegal invasions. It might mean the end of Caribbean poverty as "a backyard" where U.S.-capital exploit it as a "nice piece of real estate". The Haitian upsurge might very well mean, a new Caribbean Nation, united in its own interests, and creating the world's first Regional State, laying to rest the non-viable island and coastal nation states tailor made by and for imperialist domination.

Cuba became Cuban and not American on January 1, 27 years ago. About 25 years ago Cuba became the first and only territory in the region to resist and defeat U.S. invasion of the Caribbean and Latin America, when it flattened U.S. backed military invasion at the aptly name Bay of Pigs.

Haiti today might mean the resurgence of the real Caribbean, a free Caribbean, the birth of a Caribbean nation in popular power. This period in Caribbean history is, at one and the same time, the worst of Caribbean times, and yet, it is the best of Caribbean times.

ESQUIVEL DISCUSSES JOB SITUATION, SEES IMPROVEMENT

Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Feb 86 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Reporting to a special sitting of the House of Representatives on Friday last week, Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel said that 300 new jobs were created since the turn of the New Year, and predicted that the goal of 1,000 new jobs for the year is well within reach.

Main contributors to the dramatic turn-around of the job situation are the Williamson Industries garment factory who hired 150 additional seamstresses, despite rumours dating back to pre-general elections that this company was actually phasing out; and the Mosquito Coast film people, who are expected to hire another 150 persons.

While employment by the film company will be for only a limited period,

work on the Belize International Airport will take this slack. It is expected to begin just about the time the Mosquito Coast people will be leaving.

There are a number of other industries about to commence operations, including the Belize Export and Investment promotion unit (BEIPO). They have passed the initial stage, and is now ready to start on the ground operations. All this is expected to continue to cut dramatically into the unemployment situation.

The P.M.'s announcement of improvement in the job situation, came at the same time that government was initiating new fiscal measures. But he indicated that these measures had to be taken, and that

the current situation was far from "rosy." He said, however that expectations for the remainder of 1986 looked good, and added that a dramatic turn-around was being anticipated.

Mr. Esquivel described the increase in certain taxes as modest (See Commentary on Page 1), and reaffirmed that it was still his government's belief that the way of new money for expanded social and infrastructural services, was through an increase in economic-private sector activity.

He called the fiscal measures an extraordinary one, dictated by an absolute need to balance the revenue and expenditure picture in time for the start of the new fiscal year on April 1.

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CSO: 3298/350

BELIZE

PAPER CITED FOR CHARGE OF CORRUPTION IN CIVIL SERVICE

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 2 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

An article appearing in the January 1986 issue of Vanguard, the PSU's official publication, criticizes the UDP government for being soft on senior civil servants who use their jobs and influence to make money for themselves.

The article, which like all the articles in the Vanguard, is unsigned, charges that it is a "disgrace" that the new government has pardoned, and stopped legal action which had been initiated against some senior public officers.

"It is to the disgrace of government," the Vanguard writer charges, "that they have retained so many of the appointees of the former government.

"While the government has prosecuted with assiduity some minor functionaries of

the service for alleged dishonesty", the article says, "they have pardoned and stopped legal action initiated against some of the bigger fish."

The article provides no hint of who these senior officers might be or what is the nature of their offences, but it does go on to say that some of the big fish "have been allowed to depart quietly with benefits in tact or by resignation and many others have been covered over and allowed to retain their positions despite clear evidence of their complicity in dishonest acts."

The article goes on to charge that "incompetence is almost a virtue in the highest levels of public officer management."

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BELIZE

PAPER PREDICTS INEVITABLE WAR WITH GUATEMALA

Belize City AMANDALA in English 7 Feb 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

There will come a time when Belizeans will have to fight the Goliath called Guatemala.

It is not a prospect pleasant to behold, for our neighbours to the west are so much more multitudinous and military than we are.

But there are fights sometimes which force themselves upon you, and which you have to fight.

When that fight takes place, the result will decide whether Belize finally becomes a real nation or disappears into the maw of the butchers next door.

There will come a day when the population of Belize will stabilize in the sense that those who have wanted to depart, will have departed, and those who have wanted to enter, will have entered. Belize will have a large and racially mixed population of people who will have made a final decision that Belize is their home, come hell or high water.

And then Belize will become tired of the bullying and insults from the murderous, racist, South Africa of Central America.

The latest insult, the Guatemalan CONCACAF Secretary's public statement that Belize cannot compete as a national selection in CONCACAF and FIFA tournaments (see page 3 clipping from EL TIEMPO of Tegucigalpa) may seem to be only one more in a long line of hectoring and embarrassments created regionally for us by a nation which refuses to recognize our sovereignty.

But Belize has been independent since 1981 and our honour is something about which we must be concerned.

Belize has never been in a position to even talk back to Guatemala. We are completely intimidated. We are defended by foreigners.

But, every bully gat 'e ketcher. It may not be in my lifetime, or in yours, but there will come a time when Belizeans will draw a line and declare we will not be pushed beyond this.

There will come a time.

/9274

CSO: 3298/350

BELIZE

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA CHARGES--During the House debate on Friday last, Minister of Natural Resources Dean Lindo made reference to the marijuana activities of certain members of the former government. Mr. Lindo called no names, but immediately Opposition Leader Marin jumped up to loudly protest that he had never been involved in drugs. Hog we bawl [From the anonymous column "Gone Abroad"] [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Feb 86 p 3] /9274

PACT WITH HONDURAS--Belmopan, Fri. Jan 24--Belize and Honduras have signed an educational and cultural agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to extend and develop the levels of understanding and co-operation among the two nations through the exchange of information on the progress achieved in each country in the fields of culture, education, science and technology. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dean Barrow signed on behalf of the Government of Belize, and Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of Honduras in Belize Lic. Marco Antonio Caballero signed on behalf of the Government of Honduras. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 31 Jan 86 p 9] /9274

WARNING TO PUP--A. G. Huberg Elrington has sounded a timely warning to the PUP's, who are known to be planning a campaign of violence. "Take care," said the A. G., "that in your rush to destabilize the government, you don't destabilize yourselves. We are watching and waiting. Do not confuse restraint with weakness, for the moment you go too far we shall come down upon you with the full fury of the law." [From the anonymous column "Gone Abroad"] [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Feb 86 p 3] /9274

UK VISITOR--Concluding a three day working visit to Belize this week was Trade and Investment Advisor to the Belize High Commission in London Mr. Michael Ashcroft. Mr. Ashcroft held discussions with various ministers and government officials including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Curl Thompson, Local Government Minister Mr. Philip Goldson, Education and Tourism Minister Mr. Derek Aikman, Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Eduardo Juan, Financial Secretary Sir Edney Cain and Budget Director Mr. Joseph Waight. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Feb 86 pp 3, 10] /9274

CSO: 3298/350

BRAZIL

JANUARY INFLATION JEOPARDIZES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 5 Feb 86 pp 72-78

[Text] President Jose Sarney is faced with an economic policy, of which he is now in charge, which is leading toward catastrophe. He replaced one minister of finance, Francisco Dornelles, who promised to lower inflation at the cost of recession, with another, Dilson Funaro, who came in with a promise to make economic growth possible through a reduction in prices and interest rates. Five months after the ministerial substitution, the economy, which in fact had already been growing since 1984, with former minister Delfim Netto, continued to advance, but neither interest rates nor inflation gave any sign of declining. Interest rates continue to be sky-high, as always. And inflation--well, inflation, no longer camouflaged in any way, is an economic cataclysm threatening to destroy our national currency, to disrupt the productive life of the country and to place the stability of the government at risk.

Now the index rose in January to 16.2 percent--a figure which is only matched nowadays on this planet by the bankrupt Bolivian and Nicaraguan economies, but has never before been seen in all of the history of Brazil. This figure is so high that one can now calculate the weekly or daily inflation rate. In January, for example, it was almost 0.5 percent per day--in other words, not a single 24-hour period passed during the whole of the month in which the money in the pocket of the Brazilian consumer did not lose value. Few illustrations could dramatize as this does the virulently destructive nature of the effect inflation has had during this government.

It was a perplexed Sarney who received the news of the January index last Monday morning from Funaro and Minister of Planning Joao Sayad. "But you gentlemen said that inflation would be lower than this," the president responded, according to an advisor at the Planalto Palace, during the meeting in which Chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency Jose Hugo Castelo Branco; General Rubens Bayma Denys, chief of the Military Household of the Presidency; and General Ivan de Souza Mendes, head of the SNI [National Intelligence Service], also participated. Sarney already knew that, following the 13.3 percent rate in December, inflation would continue to be high in January, but he did not expect that the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] computers in Rio would produce as humiliating a figure as that shown him. On Saturday, the economy was shaken by another frightening figure,

that representing inflation as measured by the FGV [Getulio Vargas Foundation], a body which lost its status as the official monitor of price movements 2 months ago to the IBGE, which currently establishes the monthly index. Inflation in January, according to the FGV, was 17.8 percent. In other words, the situation could be even worse than the government, relying on the IBGE figures, believes it to be.

The Anguishing Problems of Popularity

Three months ago, Sarney still believed that inflation would begin to drop as of January, reaching a monthly level of only 5 percent by March, according to one of his closest advisors, despite the fact that all of the predictions which reached the Planalto Palace from outside the government tended to confirm the gloomy forecasts left behind by the outgoing minister, Francisco Dornelles. Dornelles could not see how income could be distributed through wage increases exceeding economic productivity, by increasing taxes and not cutting public expenditures, all at the same time, without these decisions fueling the fires of inflation. But above all, the former minister felt uncomfortable in a government which, without aligning itself with the right or left extremes in the spectrum of political forces, sought to legitimize itself by distributing benefits.

Last week, while Funaro and Sayad gave assurances that the government had not lost control of the inflationary process, a conviction began to crystallize in the minds of politicians and businessmen to the effect that Sarney had fallen into the trap awaiting any government leader who promises more than he can deliver, and sooner or later finds himself on the brink of a suicidal economic policy. "The government is experiencing the anguishing problems of popularity," economist Jose Alfredo Lamy of the Boavista Bank says. "He is avoiding drastic measures out of fear of losing popularity, but he cannot evade questions about the failure to do anything against inflation." The result is an ugly situation brewing in the economy and the politics of the country following every monthly index, each higher than the last.

"It will not be through the policy being pursued, nor through the wage increases which have been authorized, that Sarney can succeed in controlling inflation," industrialist Luis Eulalio de Bueno Vidigal Filho, president of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP), says. "If he wants to be remembered in history, he will have to adopt a model decision, with a harsher economic policy in an election year." In fact, inflation is only in part an economic phenomenon, to the extent that inconsistent policies, appeals for greater public expenditures and challenges to the political system are to be found among its roots. "The runaway inflation process damages the political picture very rapidly, and is already leading to reactions such as that of Recife Prefect Jarbas Vasconcelos, who has urged the government to adopt energetic measures," the president of the Itau Bank, Jose Carlos Moraes Abreu, says. "Until a short time ago, I would have been surprised to hear a statement like this from the lips of a leftist politician. I believe that the seriousness of the present situation has already begun to dissuade the country from the illusion that monetary issues and economic growth based on wage increases succeed in the end."

The president of the FIESP believes that there is still time to change the direction of the economy without causing major trauma, and he insists that Sarney convert his promise, made after learning the January inflation rate, to control public expenditures with "an iron hand," into a reality. "If this is not done, if it remains just another promise, we will see a replay of the 1982 elections, when the government spent rivers of money to elect the PDS [Social Democratic Party] but lost at the polls," Vidigal warns. "Only then they lost to the New Republic, while now they will lose to forces no one wants," this businessman adds. No one, naturally, except the individuals who voted for these forces--the mass of the discontented of all sorts who felt the attraction of the radical message. In fact, Vidigal and his peers share a common fear--that due to the political incompetence of the government, Lula's PT [Workers Party] and Brizola's PDT [Democratic Workers Party] will make great advances, or may even emerge the winners in the elections next 15 November.

Political Intervention

The fear that the PT and the PDT will be the natural trainbearers of the economic downfall which may result in the coming months if inflation continues its deadly spiral does not perturb just the businessmen, but is now causing a reaction in the leftist faction of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]--the main party supporting Sarney--itself. The reasons are different from those cited by people like Vidigal and Moraes de Abreu, but they lead up to the same point--the lack of an anti-inflationary policy. "Either we will break up the structures or we will not get out of this," says Airtton Soares, a federal deputy, one of the deputy leaders of the PMDB and the figurehead in the leftist faction of the party, who is concerned about the damage inflation will do during the electoral campaign this year.

Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Chamber and the PMDB, is also concerned. "A country which does not respect its money will fail," Ulysses Guimaraes is accustomed to saying on the subject of inflation. He says he believes that by election time the problem will have been overcome, but Soares does not share this hope. "The PMDB must seek to break up the current system of economic management," he says. "We must put the ideas we defended during the 20 years we were in the opposition into practice." The problem here is doing in the real life of the government what sounds so good in the free and easy life in the opposition. These ideas, Soares says, include a moratorium on the foreign debt and a state takeover of the banks. Soares says that Ministry of Finance advisors have demanded of the PMDB firmer party action in support of the economic policy of the government. But this will not be easy. Of what PMDB, what support and what economic policy are we speaking? Neither Ulysses Guimaraes nor Funaro wants to politicize the present economic situation, according to other members of the PMDB, so as to avoid a shakeup in the PMDB organs, which have been ever increasingly infiltrated by PDS elements.

A Government Adrift

In the midst of this interplay of ambiguities, Sarney is seeking a balance, persuaded that he can pilot the economy at 200 kilometers per hour

indefinitely and without major risk. He begins with the premise that he is working with a presumably crafty policy. For example, he has drawn into the arms of the government an opposition sector which has been practically reduced today to the solitary figure of Amaral Netto, the deputy who is the leader of the PDS in the Chamber. The wider his circle of allies becomes, however, the more contradictions there are in the political bloc which supports him, and the more frequent the demands of parliamentarians, governors, and prefects, for funds which never suffice, and when they are paid out, only contribute to increasing inflation. "There may be those who do not believe this, but no government can fail to pay a high price politically for its errors in management, which are made visible by inflation," economist Paulo Guedes, vice president of the Brazilian Market Institute, says.

The strategy of trying to please everyone, when one is faced with problems of the magnitude of a threat of hyperinflation, would thus have now reached its lowest limit. The support was won, but this asset will be jettisoned insofar as inflationary levels like that in January are seen again. "This government has neither a direction nor an established course, and it is visibly losing credibility and trust," according to Pratini de Moraes, a PDS deputy from Rio Grande do Sul, who has refused invitations to join the PMDB and the PFL [Liberal Front Party]. "They need to become persuaded that 2 and 2 are 4, not 22. There is no miracle which can do away with the imbalance in the public accounts." According to the current diagnosis by businessmen, and perhaps that most popular with economists, it is there, in public expenditures, that the great evil in the economy lies. However this conclusion is not consistent with what is going through the heads of the ministers in the economic sector, despite the announced expenditure cuts and the statements, such as that made by Minister Sayad last Friday, to the effect that "the public sector will take a beating."

If this "beating" is administered, it will be for the first time, and there are very few who are willing to believe it until they see it. Sayad was already supposed to have announced the list of cuts for state agencies, which was to have been submitted to the SEPLAN [Secretariat of Planning] before Christmas. Christmas passed, inflation took off in January, and no one is talking about the cuts recommended by Sarney even before the tax-increase package approved in December, in which there was also a promised pruning of expenditures, a promise still in the realm of good intentions. "The announced cuts were only for show," the head of the Department of Economics at the University of Brasilia, Antonio Dantas, says. Economist Joao Paulo Machado Peixoto, also of the University of Brasilia, is even more skeptical. "If failure to control the economy continues as it is at present, we will inevitably have economic and social instability and political breakdowns," he predicts.

Explosive Situation

The concern which has been caused in the government and outside it by the shameful January rate augurs an explosive situation for the coming months, one which the Planalto Palace does not know how to, does not want to, or does not feel capable of resolving, but which in the absence of a definition, can only grow worse. The sad predictions for the economy are already beginning to be

seen in the failure of enterprises to make investment decisions, without which economic growth can not be sustained, nor can new jobs continue to be created at the rate required by social demands. "This picture of instability leads businessmen into a dilemma," sighs executive Edson Vaz Musa, president of Rhodia, affiliated with the french state Rhone-Poulenc conglomerate, which is awaiting better days in order to put more than \$60 million into investments. "No one feels comfortable enough to plan long-term investments, given this economic scenario."

Apart from fearing the future, businessmen are complaining about price control. They say that this is a measure which has served its purpose. The system established by the Interministerial Price Council (CIP) turned its attention to industry as soon as Jose Sarney took office, initially with a provisional measure to be abrogated when inflation reverses. Inflation has not declined and at this beginning of 1986, the temporary measure is becoming increasingly permanent. "They are beginning to commit the error, which I committed as well, of abandoning important support," former minister Delfim Netto said last week to an interlocutor. He was speaking of the friction created a week earlier when a letter was sent to the minister of finance over the signatures of the top officials at assembly plants based in Brazil, who threatened to break with the CIP unless an increase of 26.34 percent was seen within a few days.

The clash was turned to the advantage of Funaro when the newspapers last Wednesday carried photographs of holding areas entirely filled with vehicles. With the initiative in his favor again, Funaro sent a team of SUNAB [National Superintendency of Supplies] inspectors to the assembly plants to establish whether or not the stocks had been accumulated pending a CIP adjustment, after which the vehicles would be sent to the concession holders at the new prices. Following tense negotiations, Funaro accepted the manufacturers' explanations that the vehicles were being held for export or because they were not yet finished. "The matter of the storage areas was only a misunderstanding," the president of Ford, Edward Hagenlocker, argues. He is not at all satisfied with his 14 months in Brazil. According to sources in the automotive sector, Ford ended last year a \$120 million in the red where its domestic market activities were concerned.

"It is not at all easy to plan for the future of an enterprise when there are variations in the rate of inflation as great as those seen in Brazil," Hagenlocker says somewhat bitterly. Like the other automobile factory officials, he has unwillingly swallowed the 15 percent adjustment Funaro finally authorized. "We bear on our shoulders the weight of the lack of synchronization in prices caused by the CIP," the president of the assemblers' association and vice president of General Motors, Andre Beer, protests. "We are working at a disadvantage, and under these circumstances, it would not be illegal to discontinue production." The assemblers claim that they feel that they are in the same situation as the wageearners were when Minister Delfim Netto was in office, at which time wages were tightened in order to reduce inflation, which did not decline.

Protectors of the People

The casuistry in price control is really a phenomenon of long standing which disrupts markets, causes a shortage of products, does not resolve the problem of inflation, and when revoked, has led to arbitrary adjustments. Normally, it only produces results when applied over a short time. The first person to follow this path was the emperor Diocletian, who handed down an Edict on Maximum Prices in the year 301 AD, which is still today a document applicable to state intervention in the economy. In it, as the "protector of the human race," he decreed that "the highest price of articles for sale will be fixed," since "mankind as such can not provide the solutions desired." Diocletian, in addition to being emperor, thought he was God, and even so his edict was not effective. It is also unlikely to work for Funaro, who knows that he is neither an emperor nor God.

Businessmen such as Vidigal, of the FIESP, Musa, of Rhodia, and Beer, of General Motors, have fought to get the government to focus on the real causes underlying inflation and to begin to abandon the provisional measures, such as the actions of the CIP, which would supposedly strengthen an anti-inflationary policy which in fact has never existed. "The CIP is only causing misunderstandings among businessmen, as is now the case with the automobile sector, diverting attention from the issue of inflation," says Vidigal, who is going to ask Funaro and Sarney to moderate price control. The president of the Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT), Jair Meneguelli, has also scheduled a trip to Brasilia. After considerable reluctance, he has decided to sit down with Minister of Labor Almir Pazzianotto and listen to what the "social pact," so long urged by Sarney and Funaro but never explained, is all about. But he has already warned that "any proposal which will tie the hands of the trade unions will be rejected by the CUT."

Meneguelli will not abandon the system of quarterly or even more frequent adjustments if inflation does not decline, just as Vidigal, his old opponent in wage-negotiation sessions, will no longer accept price control. Inflation unites them against the government, in an appeal for efficiency in the battle against rising living costs, but divides them at the table, where they suggest competitive proposals, in the battle to see who will lose the least. With inflation high, the government gains by issuing currency to pay for its expenditures, while the businesses and those individuals who can not adjust their available funds each month are the losers.

Qualifying Inflation

Wherever one looks, there is no one urging moderation in the battle against inflation. People are beginning to tire of a problem which dates back a long time, sometimes appears about to end, but then begins its abrasive circuit, touching all types of income, again. "Your task is so difficult today because your predecessors chose to postpone the solution to these problems," the American economist Thomas Sargent said supportively in an open letter to Minister Funaro, in which he predicted that Funaro "or one of your successors will have to adopt some disagreeable fiscal measures shortly" (see interview on p 74). The anatomy of Brazilian inflation does not show the effects of any

concrete measure adopted since Sarney took office to reduce it, by any system whatsoever.

The problem encounters resistance, and an effort is made to justify it in the same way as the ministers of finance in the preceding governments did, at which time they became the targets of criticism and ridicule from the very politicians and economists who are in power today. Earlier, chuchu [a vegetable] was blamed for inflation. At the Planalto Palace meeting on Monday, which was preceded by another preparatory meeting held Saturday afternoon at the home of the minister of finance in Brasilia, with Sayad and economists from the two ministries participating, Sarney was informed that the January figure was high because of coffee. "Never has a product influenced our inflation so much," Funaro argued, stating that the price of coffee was up 106 percent in a single month, in a spiral which has already exceeded 1000 percent per year (see chart on p 78). There were also the effects of the drought and seasonal factors--the so called "Gregorian inflation," which leads enterprises to readjust their prices for each part of the year.

Without these factors, according to a joint note signed by Funaro and Sayad, inflation in January would have been down from 16.2 percent to 11.9 percent, which would in fact not have made this situation acceptable either. The fact is that these elements did exist, Brazilians paid more because of these "atypical" or "accidental" increases, and since that is the case, it serves no purpose to cry over spilled milk or to calculate what inflation might have been if people had stopped eating, if industries had stopped producing, and so on. "The business of adding adjectives to describe inflation means nothing, because every month there will always be a product on which the price has gone up more than for others--one day it will be chuchu and another coffee," argues economist Jose Alfredo Lamy.

Political Actions

There must have been some satisfaction for Sarney, however. "You have to explain this to the people," the president said by way of instruction on Monday. In the afternoon the president of the IBGE, economist Edmar Bacha, who had delayed the announcement of the index on Saturday to allow time for Sarney to be informed of the disaster, distributed a memorandum maintaining, predictably, that January was an "accident" and not an indication of how inflation will develop. Funaro also hopes that things will develop this way, despite the predictions that inflation has already been moving toward a new level of a minimum of 12 or 13 percent per month, which would mean more than 300 percent per year. "The great political task of the Brazilian government is reduction of inflation, and there is no one who does not want this," the minister of finance says.

His strategy is to provide information that the basic causes of rising prices have been or are being eliminated, which will serve to cool down the psychological component in inflation, which leads everyone to expect higher figures and to attempt to protect themselves by anticipating markups. One aspect of the strategy involves the import of foodstuffs to compensate for shortages caused by the drought, and also price control for certain foodstuffs--the first list brought coffee down from 129,600 cruzeiros per

kilogram to 99,900, and also included sugar, meat, rice and beans. Another aspect has to do with public accounts. The first step taken by Funaro there was to eliminate the link existing between the Bank of Brazil and the Central Bank through the notorious, obscure and dangerous "transfer account." This was the way in which the Bank of Brazil virtually assumed for itself in practice the authority to issue currency. When a public body wanted to spend money it did not have, it went ahead with the expenditure and sent the invoice to the office of the president of the Bank of Brazil, which paid it and debited this transfer account.

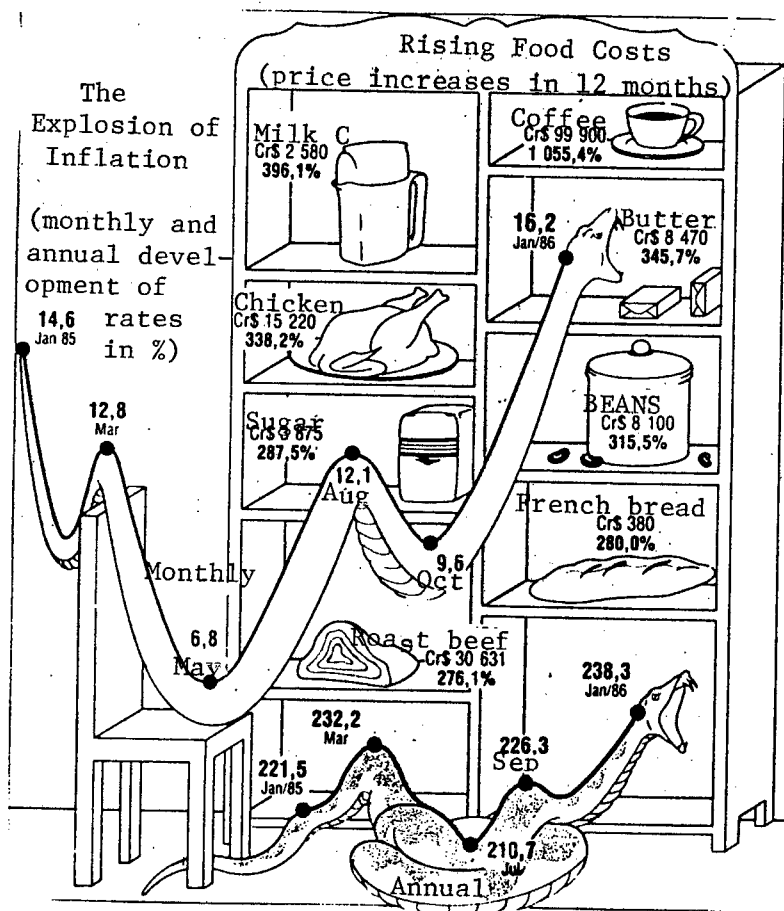
In this way the Central Bank was forced to issue currency and pass it along through the transfer account (so called for this reason) to the account of the Bank of Brazil. Since the days of Mario Henrique Simonsen, finance ministers have tried to block this account, but without any success. They were all defeated by the bureaucratic machinery. A group of bankers also tried to intimidate Funaro on Thursday afternoon after the National Monetary Council had approved the measure. With the authority of one who had successfully negotiated the rollover of the foreign debt with the men who in fact control world finances, Funaro summoned the bankers for a dialogue, submitted to harsh questioning in the presence of reporters, and was applauded in the end. A Bank of Brazil director resigned in protest, the president of the bank, Camillo Calazans, was urged to support this decision and in the process, Funaro demonstrated that the Bank of Brazil cannot claim for itself the authority to direct matters in the economic sector. It is he, Funaro, who commands, and not Calazans or the state bank officials.

Such demonstrations are vital if the situation, already serious, is not to explode suddenly. According to the minister, the government budgets closed with a surplus of 10 billion cruzeiros, which has not happened since the days of the Ernesto Geisel government, and as of February, the Central Bank will cease to exert pressure on the market, thanks to the influx of income it will receive from savings accounts. The purpose of the measure is to lower interest rates. "After resolving the foreign debt issue, I am going to devote all my time to the battle against inflation," Funaro promises. He believes that he has the full support of the president in his campaign against indiscriminate inroads into the treasury. During the month of January, Funaro says, Sarney vetoed requests for new expenditures which he estimates came close to 30 trillion cruzeiros.

An End to Indexing

"I am absolutely convinced that after we show that the budget has been reduced and that we have stocks of foodstuffs, the country will begin to believe in a decline in inflation," the finance minister ventures. A reduced budget, as he points out, will not mean a literally balanced budget. He speaks of eliminating the so-called "operational deficit," created by expenditures which exceed income when they cease to be subject to monetary correction. This would be like a person whose mortgage has increased from a million cruzeiros to 1.1 million in a month with 10 percent inflation, and who, having paid the additional 100,000, regards his deficit as zero. The additional Cr100,000, in the case of the public accounts, would be the "operational deficit," while the real debt to be paid would continue to be a million cruzeiros.

However the operational deficit is eliminated, that is not all that is needed. As Funaro indicated to the director general of the IMF, Jacques de Larosiere, even with this deficit eliminated by the end of the year, Brazilian inflation would not be reduced by more than 50 percentage points in 1986. De Larosiere agreed with Funaro's calculations, and the resulting conclusion is that the main factor feeding Brazilian inflation is economic indexing. This is the system whereby all of the prices in the country for a given month are automatically adjusted by monetary correction based on the preceding month. The government is operating today on the assumption that unless monetary correction is abandoned, it will be difficult to reduce inflation below the 10 percent per month level. Economist Eduardo Modiano, of the PUC [Pontifical Catholic University] in Rio de Janeiro, believes that the time for abandoning indexing is approaching. It may, in fact, be nearer than many realize. " This has not yet been done only because the government lacks courage," Modiano says. Funaro, however, is willing to discuss the matter, but only after the effects of the impact of farm prices on the economy are behind us.



Following the 16.2 percent figure for January, something will without a doubt have to be done. This is not a matter to be trifled with, particularly when there appears to be a trend toward increasing hyperinflation. History is rich in examples. The 30 percent annual inflation under Juscelino Kubitschek produced Janio Quadros, with the consequences familiar to all. Under Joao

Goulart, inflation did not exceed 100 percent, but it led to something even more overwhelming--the 1964 revolution. And finally, the 220 percent inflation under Joao Figueiredo led to direct elections, the rise of Tancredo Neves, and the end of a regime which had prevailed in the country for 21 years. Today, with inflation running at 0.5 per cent per day, it is not hard to foresee the major confusion which lies ahead. Figures of this magnitude have unimagined effects on the life of the citizenry. A person who has financed the purchase of an apartment for a billion cruzeiros, for example, will be owing an additional 70,000 after reading this article from beginning to end.

5157

CSO: 3342/75

BRAZIL

CETEX ANNOUNCES BREAKTHROUGH IN SILICON OXIDE

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Dec 85 p 22

[Text] Brasilia--A German industrial monopoly could be broken by Brazil through research developed by the Army Technological Center: the production of silicon oxide for fiber optic components. This market, calculated by specialists of the Ministry of Science and Technology to be about \$4 billion annually, may be threatened by Brazilian industries as soon as the method becomes economically viable.

Currently, all existing fiber optic industries use a base compound--produced from quartz crystals--from a single supplier in West Germany. From this base compound a secondary silica is made, which is then heated until it may be extruded into a thin optical fiber capable of making more than 2,400 simultaneous connections, substituting for hundreds of traditional telephone wires.

The importance of fiber optics grew with the spread of telecommunications, with its computers and high capacity communication systems. To meet the current demand of these means, engineering firms around the world have already replaced traditional wires with fiber optic systems in the construction of office buildings.

In Brazil, this effect is beginning to be felt now; with the manufacture of national computers and their consequent spread to homes and offices, some consequences of overloading the telephone networks are already emerging. A clear example is Embratel's Ciranda Project, which mobilizes a large part of the available reserve for the transmission of data between 1900 and 2100 hours. But the high cost of the imported material reduces the possibilities of fiber optic use on a large scale.

Brazil is the principal exporter of unrefined quartz--the raw material for silicon oxide--to German industry. With the technology developed by the Army Technological Center, Brazil will start exporting the processed product to a range of countries, raising the negative balance of payments by a considerable amount--oxide is 100 times more expensive than the basic raw material.

The secretary of army technology, Haroldo Erichsen da Fonseca, confirmed the good results of the research developed by Cetex in a symposium on technological research sponsored by the Federal Senate about two months ago. But he asked that the matter not be made public since it was still confidential and experimental. Today, according to unofficial sources, the project has already reached a degree of viability which would indicate its possible use on an industrial scale within 5 years.

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BRAZIL

FRG'S DLT CHOOSES 'EMB-120 BRASILIA' 30-PASSENGER AIRCRAFT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Jan 86 p 35

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos--The Federal Republic of Germany is the 30th country to acquire aircraft manufactured in Brazil, today in operation on all five continents. Embraer sold six EMB-120 Brasilias to Deutsche Luftverkehrsgesellschaft (DLT), based in Frankfurt, one of the largest European companies in regional air transportation, and a subsidiary of Lufthansa, the official airline of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The delivery ceremony of the first Brasilia to DLT will take place next Thursday in Sao Jose dos Campos, at Embraer headquarters. Until now, Embraer has closed on 62 sales contracts of the Brasilia, 42 to regional firms in the United States, 9 to Europe, 7 to Australia, 2 to Africa and 2 to Brazil. The Brasilia still has 37 buy options on the foreign market and 52 on the domestic market.

The first Brasilia manufactured in mass production--the first prototype flew in 1983--was delivered last August to the North American firm Atlantic Southeast Airlines, which acquired six aircraft, all delivered in 1985. In 1986, Embraer planned to manufacture three Brasilias per month, but depending on its reception by the foreign market, that production may be increased in the second semester, to the assembly of four aircraft per month.

The Brasilia is the newest turboprop of the new generation; it is the first long-distance airplane developed and manufactured in Brazil. It uses Pratt and Whitney turbines, each with 1,600 HP. The 30-passenger aircraft is being sold for \$5 million. According to U.S. airline companies that are using the Brasilia, a load factor greater than 12 passengers becomes profitable to its operator--thus its great reception on the international market.

Before purchasing the six Brasilias, however, the DLT considered several airplanes to replace its current fleet of British Avros. However, the SF-340, for 34 passengers, a Swedish-North American project of Saab-Fairchild, presented payload restrictions, a high level of internal noise, and was equipped with General Electric CT7 motors in which DLT mechanics were not specialized. In addition, North American Fairchild recently broke off its partnership and the Swedish Saab-Scania was left with the project. Finally, SF-340 certification was revoked in England because of icing problems on its vertical rudder.

But DLT also looked at other airplanes, like the CN-235, a Spanish-Indonesian project of Casa-Nurtanio which seats 36, but that presented an insufficient range for the DLT's needs. The 39-passenger Canadian Havilland Dash-8 was already disqualified as a contender because of a "lack of decision of the Canadian government's part, since the next phase of the project still had not begun."

As to the ATR-42, a French-Italian project of Aeroespaciale and Aeritalia, with 44 seats, DLT felt it was not a satisfactory solution to the company's air service network. For the same reasons, the Germans did not purchase the 60-passenger British stretch Avro 748, manufactured by the consortium BAe-ATR. These last two models lost to the Dutch Fokker, for 50 passengers.

13007/12948
CSO: 3699/2

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO PURCHASE TECHNOLOGIES--Brazil can sell fiber optics and laser technology to Czechoslovakia and purchase from the Czechs several millions of dollars' worth of irrigation equipment, under the Nordeste Project for the irrigation of 2 million hectares, for \$4 billion. Since yesterday, a delegation from the Czechoslovakian government, lead by the vice minister of foreign trade, Ladislav Zodrazka, has been in Brazil to negotiate an increase in bilateral trade with the Brazilian government. Today Ladislav meets with the minister of the interior, Ronaldo Costa Couto, then he is to propose the sale of equipment for the Nordeste Project. The government wants to irrigate at least 1 million hectares by 1988 and will need several million water pumps to do so. The ministry of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union has already offered its pumps, as has Israel. Yesterday at a luncheon in Itamaraty Palace, the members of the delegation informed the Brazilian government that their machines are top quality, unequaled in the world, and that they irrigate at very low cost, thus making them strong contenders. In return, the Czechoslovakian government wants to buy Brazilian laser and fiber optic technology (telephone lines produced by laser). [Text] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jan 86 p 27] 13007/12948

JOINT ARMS PRODUCTION WITH YUGOSLAVIA--The British magazine JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY states in its latest edition that Yugoslavia will be Brazil's first East European partner in arms production. In fact, the magazine cites O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO as its source of information. In partnership with Brazil, Belgrade wants to produce a tank turret equipped with a 120-mm cannon and a laser range finder made by the Soviets. The Brazilian Army, says the magazine, considers the project an opportunity for technological cooperation, while Itamaraty sees it as a possibility for equalizing the balance of trade, and the military industry as a possibility for close study of Soviet technology. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jan 86 p 5] 13007/12948

CSO: 3699/2

CHILE

MDP LEADER: MARCOS' DOWNFALL LESSON TO LEARN

PY270013 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] President Ferdinand Marcos' downfall has provoked diverse reactions in Chile. However, there is an overall common feeling of satisfaction. Each individual and political sector has reacted differently. Let us listen to the opinion of Ossiell Nunez, a Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] leader.

[Begin Nunez recording] The case of the Philippines makes us recall the lesson we recently learned from Haiti: Dictatorships cannot resist the pressure of a brave and united people who are determined to recover their rights. A popular rebellion has triumphed in the Philippines.

The Philippine regime, like the Chilean one, had in its Armed Forces its main internal support, but it was defeated despite seeming to be invincible.

What power could tanks have when the people laid down across the streets? How could the Army shoot at a crowd of people willing to die rather than relinquish their positions? [End recording]

Ossiell Nunez pointed out that the Philippine Armed Forces sided with the people to help oust Marcos.

[Begin Nunez recording] Many people in Chile say that it is absurd to oust the dictatorship because we do not have enough force to do so. In this way, this sort of people justify their need to negotiate.

However, the Filipinos are demonstrating that this is not true. It is our duty, therefore, to learn from their example. The main lesson is that we must unite if we want to attain our objectives. All forces played an important role in the process. The Catholic Church played a very important role in the Philippines. [End recording]

The MDP leader believes that it is everyone's duty to work for unity, for brotherhood in the country. He also believes that the United States played a vital but condemnable role in Marcos' downfall.

[Begin Nunez recording] In face of Marcos' unsustainable position, the United States had to sacrifice him. This is the only thing that makes me sad about this good news, because we believe that a real, fair democracy cannot be built when U.S. interests are present. [End recording]

/8918

CSO: 3348/442

CHILE

RADOMIRO TOMIC EXPLAINS MECHANISM FOR EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

PY081401 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 25 Feb-3 Mar 86 pp 16-19

[From the "Interview" column: "There Will Not Be a Democratic Solution Without an Agreement With the Marxists," by Juanita Rojas. An interview with Radomiro Tomic, a former Christian Democratic senator and presidential candidate--date and place not given--quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] An Alternate Proposal

[Rojas] Do you have an alternate framework that you would use as a counter-proposal to the National Accord's proposal for the return to democracy in Chile?

[Tomic] There are two complementary positions. The first one: An ethical and political guiding ideal as an imperative framework. This means visualizing Chile as and making the effort to turn it into a fatherland for all Chileans, without exclusions, which are intolerable from the moral or patriotic viewpoints, and especially, without prior exclusions. The second one: A temporary political mechanism--an emergency government--as an instrument to give concrete form to the ethical and patriotic proposal of a fatherland for everyone.

[Rojas] How could this "fatherland for everyone" come into being?

[Tomic] Some 4 or 5 years ago ANALISIS honored me by publishing, as an insert, an interview several pages in length on this topic. The situation remains the same. I will sum up the essentials. Two factors are inseparable. The ethical factor: The loyal acceptance without reservations that the fatherland exists, that we Chileans form a single national community, and that Chile needs all Chileans. The temporary political mechanism. The emergency government as an instrument that will give concrete form to the spirit of unity and to the desire for national reconciliation. Both of these factors must have a simultaneous and twofold goal: To shorten the dictatorship that will be trusted by all Chileans; trusted in its authority and in its true patriotic intentions by both civilians and military men, as well as by the political, labor, social, and cultural forces. In sum, by the great national majority (unanimity is not indispensable) that makes up the essence and the every day life of all Chileans. Let us understand each other.

We are not talking about models of societies, but about an emergency government to face the concrete, serious, and diverse emergencies that will be unleashed when the dictatorship and its repressive apparatus come to an end in the immediate term.

[Rojas] Could you expand this alternative some more?

[Tomic] "It is my belief that the precept of a fatherland for all Chileans does not require a long explanation. One is either in favor of or against it in accordance with whether the idea of a fatherland is accepted or rejected.

The operational mechanism of the emergency government requires a longer explanation. It must be understood as an expression of the desire of the majority through a free and secret plebiscite, but this plebiscite must be preceded by a "proposal to the country" that will be essentially formulated by the three interlocutors that are indispensable at the current time: The political forces, the social and labor forces, and the Armed Forces that must acknowledge that it is their duty to return as soon as possible to the Chilean people the sovereignty that belongs to the people.

As I have just said, the proposal to the country implies the acknowledgement of the role of the political parties, the social organizations, and the military, and this cannot be ignored. It also implies a high degree of agreement among these three sectors regarding: a) The exceptional powers and the limits that will be granted to the emergency government; b) The problems constituting the emergency making an emergency government indispensable in order to control and dominate those problems; c) The format of the emergency government (its member forces); d) Its great specific objectives and the tentative periods of time in which they will successively be achieved; e) The mechanism of internal control to stop the emergency government from degenerating into an arbitrary government; and f) the period holding of consultations (plebiscites) with the people to verify partial achievements, to indicate whether the mandate should continue, and to pronounce themselves on necessary extensions or rectifications.

"The proposal to the country will not impose anything on the people. It will be brought a direct, free, and secret vote that the people themselves will cause the emergency government to be born, the people will give it the special powers that it will require, and legitimize its authority and its program. Although the proposers will have been--and must be--the political and social forces and the Armed Forces, the emergency government must not be a "government of the parties," nor a "government of the unions and businessmen," nor a "government of the military." It must not even be a mixture of those three sectors. The overall proposal is based on the fact that the emergency government is born through the desire of the people and that it receives its authority from the people, and its sphere of action will be limited to the great problems of the emergency and to the deadlines indicated by the plebiscite that will legitimize the proposal to the country, maybe within 2 or 3 years.

"It is obvious that each of these factors needs to be substantiated and that they are open to some objections, but you do not have the space and I do not have the time to go beyond this outline.

"For those who state that a "fatherland for everyone" and its implementation through an emergency government is just a play on words, the answer is that this formula is not mine and it was not invented in Chile. Many other peoples within this same generation have only been able to overcome catastrophes provoked by foreign or civil war by turning to the enduring values of nationality.

"For those who maintain that the acceptance of "Chile as a fatherland for everyone" and the emergency government will be much more difficult than achieving an agreement between the political parties, the answer also seems obvious. Doesn't everyone know that for the past 10 years it has been the agreement between the political parties that has been the center of attention? The dictatorship is now 13 years old, will we have to wait out these next 3 years of its schedule? And if this were to occur, who can guarantee that the political parties would then reach the agreement that up to now they have not been able to reach, despite the fact that all of them are victims of the dictatorship? And what will happen to the country when the 150,000 submachine guns, the fear, the discipline enforced by fear and the atrocious lack of justice and the inequity of rights and options between the rich and the poor under the military regime have disappeared?

There are people who say that I am a maximalist. My political life and my performance as a lawmaker prove that this is not true. Even so, in times of crises, the most serious threat for the people comes from the minimalists.

I think it was Benjamin Franklin who said that "if you see a friend drowning 8 meters offshore, do not throw him a 4-meter rope because your friend will die and you will lose the rope."

[Rojas] What is your opinion of the Armed Forces within this context?

[Tomic] That is the crux of the problem. There are two contradictory positions regarding this issue. First, that "it will be impossible to peacefully restore democracy in Chile without the Armed Forces, because civilians do not have the power to restore it." Second, that "the Armed Forces will refuse to hand over power to a civilian government if communism and Marxism are not previously and explicitly excluded."

These concatenate positions have distorted our situation and have rendered it unmanageable, bringing the democratization process a stalemate. This is a key issue for the Chilean future. Therefore, we must analyze it from a rigorous, intellectually honest viewpoint.

The Chilean democracy, which was open to all lines of thinking, developed in a country which had economic difficulties and major differences particularly of economic nature, between its social classes. Consequently, there have

been socialist ideas in our country since the middle of the 19th century. This doctrine has become stronger since early in the 20th century and, after a process that lasted almost 100 years, it became the sociopolitical choice of approximately one-third of all Chileans. This is an unquestionable fact.

If they are to act logically and in keeping with their beliefs, those who obstinately insist that Marxist groups be declared unconstitutional should request that the Constitution must establish that Marxists should cease to be Chileans. Of course, this is an aberration that no one has yet dared propose.

"It is a fact that for the past 13 years, General Pinochet and the top-ranking member of the armed and Carabineros Forces have used the 'struggle against communism' as an excuse to ethically justify the [1973] coup and the massive human rights violations that have deteriorated Chile's image abroad; and now as the government's leitmotif for obstructing the restoration of democracy. In fact, since in these past 13 years three full generations of new officers have passed through military institutes, it is possible that anti-communism has also ceased to be the main criteria on which patriotism is measured.

"To summarize: that there are one million Chileans (in politics, unions, shantytowns, professional associations, universities, and teaching, art and cultural institutions, etc.) who have decided to support, and will surely support again, Marxist ideas is an inexorable fact. It is also an inexorable fact that there are one million Chileans who are atheists and another million who believe in God, but who do not belong to the Catholic Church. It would be a moral aberration and a mutilation of Chile's body and soul to declare "unconstitutional" the atheists, the Protestants, the Jews, or the Marxists. However, the fact that 5,000 Armed Forces officers (this is an arbitrary number) believe that Marxist ideas 'are a cancer that must be removed at any price' and that Marxists 'have not right to be Chileans' is a subjective phenomenon that is erroneous in its perception of reality and a prejudice, and all of this can be clearly proven.

[Rojas] How would you prove this?

[Tomic] First: Chileans are not born "military" or "civilians," or rightist or leftists, nor Marxists or non-Marxists. They all share a fatherland, common ancestors, cultural background and a brain capable of perceiving and analyzing facts...whether they wear a military uniform or a suit.

"Second: Regarding the professionalism of the Chilean soldier, the noble tradition of the Chilean Armed Forces is incompatible with the gross lie that "one can measure patriotism with anti-communism." What has given international prestige to the Chilean Army and the Chilean Navy has been their professionalism, that is, their respect for [words indistinct]. We may add that the great soldiers of the past century and of this century, who are honored and revered by the country did not exert a tutelage or demand to intervene in the disagreements between civilians in a democracy.

"Third: The 1973 institutional crisis--the coup d'etat against Allende and the Popular Unity [UP]--and the lack of government that prevailed in 1973

was a circumstantial incident and it was not in keeping with "a military doctrine on military duty and power."

"Fourth: Chilean military officers are no more patriotic than military officers from Germany, France, Italy, England, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Argentina, Uruguay or Brazil. In all of these countries there are communist parties whose importance in political, union, and social activities varies according to the activities they develop.

"Fifth: We must be perfectly clear: an army that refuses to loyally fulfill its specific function within a state would destroy its legitimacy, its reason for being...and it consequently would destroy the state by perverting the basic fundamentals of society.

[Rojas] You have presented the problem of violence as an ethical and moral issue. Is it an ethical and moral issue?

[Tomic] The problem of violence is an ethical and moral issue because the use of force will be just or unjust, moral or immoral according to the circumstances in which it is used. Nonviolence is not obligatory as a norm. What is obligatory is the use of legal methods to defend and promote the enforcement of human and individual or national rights.

Gandhi is in heaven, and I am absolutely sure that this is so for Lincoln, despite the fact that he did not hesitate to declare a civil war to safeguard the unity of the United States and the freedom of slaves in which 500,000 people died.

"To maintain that if the victims of injustice chose peaceful means 'they will disturb the heart of their oppressor' is a noble vision but it is completely out of touch with the history of our complex modern society. The decisions of the IMF, of the banks, of the multinational companies are mainly to blame for the hunger of millions of human beings and for the degrading of entire nations, at a much larger scale than mere every-day normal employers.

"Nations are exploited by juridical entities that have no soul, no human face, no nervous system, nor do they need to sleep.

"With the same noble intention it is solemnly stated that 'violence does not lead to anything.' Unfortunately, world history--and Chilean history in particular, beginning with our independence--makes this statement invalid. I am a Catholic and believe that it is better to resort to peaceful means rather than violent means; but in a few words, the issue of violence was born with man and will always be there as long as the human race exists.

/6662

CSO: 3348/451

CHILE

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION LEADERS SUMMONED--A Chilean judge has summoned eight opposition leaders from the Intransigent Democracy, accused of inciting disruption of public order and the overthrow of General Augusto Pinochet's military regime. Among the leaders summoned are the well-known human rights defender Fanny Pollarolo and Rafael Agustin Gumucio. On Wednesday, Alejandro Toro, former communist senator; Andres Palma, president of the Christian Democratic youths; and Manuel Sanhueza, president of Intransigent Democracy, were also arrested and arraigned on the same charges. Today in Lima, communist leader Luis Justavino accused dictator Augusto Pinochet of causing the biggest economic, industrial, and moral catastrophe in Chile's history. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Feb 86 PA] /8918

CSO: 3348/442

GRENADA

PAPER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON INFORMATION FLOW

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 1 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

WE ARE PLEASED to learn that an Adviser on Government Information has arrived from Jamaica "to advise government of the reorganisation of its information services" - although we believe there is a superfluous "re" in that statement. We rejoice that he is such a qualified person with such a wealth of experience behind him and we extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Ken Chaplin.

We are even more pleased to learn, from the lips of the Parliamentary Secretary for Information, Senator Ben Andrew, that the Government (at last) "recognises the need to improve the flow of information on its policies and programmes to the people as well as to be informed of the views of the people on its activities."

Information has not "flowed" to us as to what the O & M Team recommended in respect of this important department or any other, but, for starters, we would like to say that we trust Mr. Chaplin will keep before him constantly the fact that he is now in Grenada, which is just about one fortieth the size of Jamaica with a population of less than one twentieth. However, while, in certain areas, his organisation must be kept to scale, this clearly cannot apply to the amount of information that

must flow from the department - especially since we have so recently emerged from a situation where the type of information fed to the people was mostly propaganda.

One of the early tasks Mr. Chaplin needs to set himself is that of convincing the Prime Minister that, nice as his weekly fatherly radio chats may be, it is no way to "win friends and influence.." the media, which every astute modern politician recognises as desirable. Especially in our present situation, regular press conferences are essential and, in the light of our only experience with this government, advice on how to behave at them is also necessary.

An overall media relations policy is needed. For example, Government must learn to take the media into its confidence and give early information, on such occasions as the Reagan visit, embargoed to a stated time, and cut out in future people who break the embargo. It must also be appreciated that the media cannot be expected to be entirely dependent on Information Service hand-outs. Government Ministers must, within reason, be accessible to members of the media when they are seeking information on particular subjects. We know that the media must recognise that, at certain times, certain information can be "classified". But government must also recognise that their business is the people's business and they must be as free as possible with information.

But one thing about Mr. Chaplin's "charge", as we understand it, is disturbing and, we hope, untrue. Radio Grenada CANNOT be incorporated into the Government Information Service. What we need there is the urgent establishment of a strong statutory Grenada Broadcasting Corporation to turn Radio Grenada commercial and get the Television station on the air, both in the quickest possible time, and stop paying money out of government coffers for a service which can pay for itself - even at our expense - while doing a better job - WITH THE FACILITIES IT HAS NOW!

GRENADA

TRADE DEFICIT FOR 1985 UP DESPITE GROWTH IN EXPORTS

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

GRENADA had a record Trade Deficit of \$127 Million in 1985. But this is only one of three trade records which the country established over the period.

With food, machinery and transport being the main items, the country imported a total of \$186 million during the year while bettering the performance in exports than at any time during the previous ten years. The \$59.4 million figure was 22% higher than the exports for 1984.

This information was given by Director of Planning Mr. Terrence Moore as he addressed the gathering at Marryshow House on Tuesday afternoon for the launching of the OAS/USAID Non-

Formal Skills Training Project.

But Mr. Moore's news was not all bad. He held out excellent prospects for 1986. "Should the upward trend in economic activities hold and the proposed plans reach fruition, there is little doubt that Grenada is on the threshold of very favourable and positive growth prospects in the medium to long term." Mr. Moore said.

It is anticipated that ten hotels will be constructed or begin construction during the year with a projected employment of 200 persons and a potential income of \$20 million. In the manufacturing sector, it is envisaged, on the basis of government's approvals in that

sector, that some 74 establishments will be implemented or begin in 1986. These activities are expected to yield a total of some 600 jobs and projected income of over \$20 million. Overall, about 850 jobs are expected to be created on the basis of new investments in 1986.

But there was also a note of concern in Mr. Moore's remarks. He noted that 1200 to 1500 school leavers enter the job market every year and the absorption rate would need to be much better to provide for all. He said that prospects were good in one sense but equally frightening in another and wondered whether Grenada had the kind of manpower to sustain the projected activities in the short term.

Nevertheless, he advised that "In our enthusiasm to train we must be careful not to flood the market with trainees who cannot be absorbed."

/9274
CSO: 3298/351

GRENADA

'FIRED' OFFICIAL CALLS FOR INQUIRY INTO MINISTRY OF WORKS

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Feb 86 p 16

[Text]

NNP member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Patrick's West, Mr. Kenny Lalsingh, was fired from his post as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education last week by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and the member has called for an inquiry into the Ministry of Works and for anyone found guilty of corruption there to be charged.

Lalsingh told a Press conference on Monday afternoon that although the Prime Minister had announced on the radio on Friday night (January 31) that he had accepted Lalsingh's resignation, and that "this would give him more time to look after his personal business", he

had in fact been forced by the P.M. to resign "because of a cooked up story from the Ministry of works" in which was allegedly accused of selling government cement.

Lalsingh told the press that he had confirmed to the P.M. that he had received 210 bags of cement last week Monday for use on various projects in his constituency and had already delivered 16 bags. The P.M. called on him to return the remainder, because it had been obtained without proper authority, and he did so. He said, however, that Blaize called him on Thursday and told him that he wanted his resignation and he delivered it at about 4.30 that afternoon.

Like every other NNP parliamentarian Lalsingh said, he was allocated \$20,000 for special works in his constituency but there was so much to be done in his formerly neglected area that (while P.S. in the Ministry of Works) he continued to draw material to work on the 20 projects which he and his supporters had identified. He was transferred to Education after a quarrel with Works Minister Keith Mitchell but he continued to draw material "without any problem whatsoever" with the assistance of the staff. While in the Ministry of Works he had also helped other parliamentarians to get material for jobs in their area. He estimated that the

jobs he did, with the assistance of his constituents was valued at about \$80,000. He said that all material drawn by him was used on these projects and that, while he had sold cement in his business before entering parliament he had since turned that business over to another concern in Sauteurs.

He charged that the Prime Minister likes to make hasty decisions, but on certain matters, like the Payne/Heyliger matter he would not make one. Lalsingh said he will not resign from the party or the House as his people were 100% behind him and he called on members of the NNP to take control of the situation.

GRENADA

MBPM DETAILS 12 REASONS FOR OPPOSING VISIT BY REAGAN

St Johns OUTLET in English 14 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) in Grenada led by Kenrick Radix the longest colleague of the late great Maurice Bishop. [as published]

Below the party gives its reasons why patriotic Grenadians cannot and will not welcome Reagan on his visit there on February 20.

MBPM SAYS WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE VISIT OF RONALD REAGAN BECAUSE REAGAN IS COMING TO:

(1) Claim the Maurice Bishop International Airport as his own.

After 40 years of empty promises by all different governments, Grenada built an international airport under the PRG led by Maurice Bishop, with international co-operation from Cuba, Syria, Algeria, Venezuela, Libya, the EEC and many others. Prime Minister Bishop and the Revolution gave the people their dream. The U.S. and Ronald Reagan refused to help and sabotaged every effort of the PRG to build the airport. "Grenada does not even have an airforce; it does not need an international airport," Ronald Reagan said in March 1983. Now the same Ronald Reagan is coming to claim our airport as his own.

(2) Introduce a new round of Colonialism to Grenada and the Caribbean

Our fighters for liberation, Fedon, Gar-

vey, Toussaint L'Overture, Marryshow, Butler, all fought to bring an end to colonialism in the Caribbean. Now Blaize and the other house slaves of the Caribbean like Seaga and Eugenia, want to bring us under the yankee colonial yoke. We now face being modern slaves in new colonies of the U.S.

(3) Rewrite the History of Grenada

For Reagan, the 1979 Revolution did not bring freedom for Grenadians. The food, jobs, health, education, housing, and all other new benefits Grenadians enjoyed was not development, according to Reagan. Reagan says "now" is freedom, but with NNP there is no food, no work, no pay. **For the people of Grenada, Bishop is a hero eternally; to Ronald Reagan, Bishop must be forgotten.**

(4) Turn Grenada into another Jamaica

When Seaga took power in Jamaica, Reagan said they will make Jamaica into a paradise. Today, Jamaica is a nation with a big begging bowl - a pauper nation. Reagan failed in Jamaica now he is promising to AIDS Grenada.

(5) Thief the Heads of Caribbean Leaders not to help the People of South Africa fight for Freedom.

Reagan refused to impose sanctions on racist South Africa but he is spending millions against Angola, Cuba and Nicaragua. Reagan administration finances and props apartheid. We say Reagan must invade South Africa before he could be welcome in Grenada. African blood is our blood!

(6) Bless the New Caribbean Democratic Union

To hang the label "Democratic" on repressive, anti-people, right-wing governments of the region to try to fool the masses.

(7) Change the Caribbean from a Zone of Peace, Independence and Development to a Zone of War.

Since the Grenada invasion of 1983, the Reagan Administration has spent over US\$100 million buying equipment for governments of the Caribbean to repress their people and to invade their neighbours. Guns, Marines, Gunboats, is the policy of Reagan for the Caribbean; Not peace, independence and development.

(8) Prop-Up the Unpopular, Inefficient, Corrupt NNP Regime.

NNP is now split left, right, and centre. It rules for the tiny handful of big businessmen in St. George's; not the masses. NNP is now the most unpopular government ever in the history of Grenada. Since it was the U.S. that put NNP in power, Reagan is now coming to

prop it up so it can continue to oppress the people.

(9) Try to Crush the Progressive and Democratic Movement in Grenada and in the Caribbean Forever.

Reagan and his New Democratic Union have launched a crusade to crush the real progressive and democratic movements in the Caribbean. This visit will be used as a new platform in their crusade.

(10) Make the Caribbean a Right-Wing Bloc opposing the True Struggles of the Third World.

The Reagan Administration is the most unpopular US government ever among Third World countries. His political, military and economic policies have produced Haiti, Chile, El Salvador, Somozas, Bastistas and Seagas. Now he wishes to make the rest of the Caribbean part of that club of dictatorships and use against progressive Third World countries.

(11) Show-off Grenada as a Military, Economic and Political success

The U.S. has not won a single victory for the past 40 years. And even though the whole world voted 108 to 8 in the United Nations condemning the invasion of Grenada, Reagan still wants to try to fool the people of the world. But the Grenada invasion is no victory; he only killed a corpse.

(12) Above all no Patriot could Welcome to our land someone who invaded our sovereign country.

/9274

CSO: 3298/351

GUATEMALA

CEREZO DEMANDS FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 86 p 6

[Text] "All public officials must file a declaration of their net worth before they take office," President-Elect Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said yesterday during the press conference at which he introduced the members of his cabinet.

The ministers-designate are: energy and mines, Roland Castillo Contoux; agriculture, Rodolfo Estrada; defense, Gen Jaime Hernandez; communications, Eduardo Goyzueta, and finance, Dr Rodolfo Paiz Andrade.

Mario Quinonez Amezquita was selected to head the Foreign Relations Ministry; Juan Jose Rodil Peralta to head interior; Dr Carlos Armando Soto, public health; Catalina Soberanis, labor; Dr Eduardo Meyer, education; Elmar Rene Rojas, culture and sports; and Rene De Leon Schlotter, development.

Cerezo Arevalo roundly denied that the choice of General Hernandez had been imposed on him. "Hernandez found out that he was going to be defense minister just one day before I told the chief of state and the army commanders, who immediately accepted the decision of the future commander in chief of the military."

As far as the future government's general policy is concerned, Cerezo said that it would be to respect the decision of all nations regarding their own destiny.

Presidential Meeting

Cerezo Arevalo also announced a meeting among the Central American presidents who will be attending his inauguration, to spur the creation of a Central American Parliament and to support the efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve peace.

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CSO: 3248/193

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

CHIEF OF STAFF APPOINTED--Col Mario Enrique Paiz Bolanos, the current head of FYDEP [National Enterprise for the Economic Promotion and Development of El Peten], will become the chief of staff of the vice presidency of the republic and will be replaced in FYDEP by Col Francisco Castellanos Gongora, Christian Democratic (DC) sources reported yesterday. Colonel Paiz will be in charge of security and other activities for the vice president, Roberto Carpio Nicolle. Col Castellanos Gongora, a native of Ciudad Flores, is now in charge of the military section of the Guatemalan Embassy in Venezuela. He has been commander of several military units and most recently served as commander of the paratroopers base in Puerto San Jose, Escuintla. It was also learned from DC sources that it is almost certain that Congressman Elian Dario Acuna will be named comptroller; Claudia Arenas, director of the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism; Carlos Morales Villatoro, president of AVIATECA; and Guillermo Diaz Romeo, director of the Institute of Anthropology and History. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 86 p 6] 8743

CSO: 3248/193

GUYANA

HOYTE OFFERS BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE IN ADDRESS TO PNC

Focus of Meeting

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

ONE of the major areas of focus of the People's National Congress this year is the development of ideological consciousness among its members and supporters. Last December on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Party in Government, Leader of the People's National Congress stated that the focus will be on strengthening the Party.

And when General Secretary, Cde Ranji Chandisingh met with the Congress Place staff last week he re-emphasised the decision to raise the level of ideological consciousness of Party workers.

With these directives the various departments of the Party Secretariat have centred their activities for this year on strengthening the Party. Executive Secretary and Head of the Department of Party Affairs and Mass Organisations, Cde Kenneth Denny reported to the Administrative Committee meeting of the Party that one of the objectives of his department is the qualitative and quantitative strengthening of the Party.

To achieve this the

programme for his department includes general outreach work, meet-the-public visits and closer co-operation with the various mass organisations in the Guyanese society.

The department will continue to organise popular support and will initiate action to organise the economic, political and social life of the people.

REVITALISATION

Existing Party groups are to be revitalised, and to ensure that the Party maintains a strong mobilisation capability, the department has identified the various organisations in its political regional structure to be the media for a continued Party presence among the people.

The programme in which Ministers of Government and senior Party functionaries meet with members of the public is being extended to the point where these functionaries will meet regularly with the people in their communities. This represents an extension of the programme in which such meetings generally took place at the various Party district offices and at Congress Place.

Executive Secretary and Head of the Department for National Orientation and International Relations, Cde Patrick Denny, told the Administrative Committee that his department's area of focus in the move to strengthen the Party will be ideological training.

ORIENTATION

Residential and non-residential courses have been planned for the participants who will be Party cadres in the main. At present the Secretariat conducts weekly study sessions. In addition, study sessions are to be conducted in every department in the secretariat.

There is to be, too, a programme through which the Party will identify and liaise with the various

cultural groups in the country. Attempts will also be made to identify the dominant cultural art forms in the respective communities.

The Department of National Orientation and International Relations is also to concentrate on strengthening the Party groups overseas. In addition, the department will seek to improve contact with friendly organisations and groups overseas.

The arms of the Party are also involved in the programme of strengthening the Party.

The Young Socialist Movement which holds its Fifth Biennial Congress in August will concentrate on increasing the quality and quantity of its membership.

In addition the movement will spearhead the establishment of a youth settlement within the MMA scheme. The proposal is that seven acres be allocated to each settler for cultivation with an additional three acres for establishing his homestead. This programme is being conducted in addition to the 60-acre rice cultivation

at Annandale. The movement has planned three cadet training programmes for the year and it will sponsor the Forbes Burnham debating competition for schools and youth groups.

Leadership seminars are also part of the programme of the Young Socialist Movement.

The Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement which also holds its Biennial Convention in August, has an active programme to help strengthen the Party.

Report on Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

The first General Council meeting of the People's National Congress for 1986 began at Sophia yesterday with Party Leader, President Desmond Hoyte detailing five main areas which must be addressed immediately to move Guyana forward to an era of dynamism and prosperity.

The areas for urgent consideration and immediate action were later the subject of lengthy and in depth debate involving members of General Council and specially invited guests including heads and other senior officials of public sector entities and representatives of the trade union movement.

Cde Hoyte told the gathering in his address lasting exactly two hours, there was need for the following five basic areas to receive prompt attention:

- Improving national discipline;
- Protecting and preserving national assets;
- Public transport;
- The performance of some entities in the State enterprise section; and
- The high cost of some food and other basic items.

In a significant address the Leader of the PNC outlined the function of the General Council (the highest forum in between Congresses), analysed the impact of the functioning of the global economy on Guyana's economic circumstances, and challenged the members of the General Council to find solutions to Guyana's economic problems so that the nation could embark on a period of economic dynamism. President Hoyte emphasised the need for flexible tactics in pursuit of

the known goals of the Party.

President Hoyte used the opening of his address to thank retiring Deputy Leader of the Party Cde Ptolemy Reid, former Prime Minister and General Secretary of the Party, for his services to the Party and Guyana.

It was explained that Cde. Reid had intimated to the Founder-Leader that he wished to retire, but was requested to maintain his position until the 1985 elections were over. Cde. Reid campaigned during the

elections and re-indicated his wish to retire from his Party posts, but not from politics. President Hoyte concluded that Cde. Reid's formal retirement marked a watershed in the history of the PNC.

Turning his attention to the function of the General Council of the Party, President Hoyte explained that this organ was concerned with the formulation of policy and should not be the occasion for personal attacks. It was also part of the process of internal democracy of the Party.

Decisions which affect Government policy were discussed fully at this forum. Pointing to the fact that even non-Party members were invited to attend the General Council, such as trade unions, the President said that participants had a duty to raise those matters which affect them.

Referring to the Hans Christian Andersen story in which the little boy was the only person to say exactly what he saw while the majority of those pointed to the emperor's wonderful suit of clothes, the President exhorted the General Council to be frank about the issues facing the nation.

Cde Hoyte also analysed the global economy noting that it continued to function in a way detrimental to developing countries such as Guyana.

Developing countries, he noted, continue to be affected by how commodity prices — those of sugar, rice and bauxite, included — which continue to plummet.

There was little Guyana could expect from the global economy, he said.

And, contending that Caricom's economic fate was crucial to Guyana as a member of that grouping, President Hoyte pointed out that there had been an intensification of the contraction of inter-regional trade due to the decline in the level of economic activity. This resulted in protectionist measures which further exacerbated the situation.

And, dealing with the local situation, he noted that while Guyanese have survived because of their ingenuity, courage and good sense of humour, he stressed that Guyana must now move from a position of having just survived to that of a period of dynamism and progress.

Ideology was a guide to action. One could not go forever offering phrases to people. People only believed in an ideology when they saw what it could achieve.

EXAMPLES

President Hoyte referred to the historical examples of nations pursuing bold and flexible initiatives in times of great economic difficulty, including the example of the USSR under the new economic policy of 1924.

Cde Hoyte spoke about the need for the Party to constantly review its tactics and, if necessary, its strategies, taking into account the particular circumstances while in pursuit of its objectives which must remain constant.

He stressed that there will be need for flexibility. Guyana would have to be ingenious and sometimes unorthodox in the things it did. In addition, Guyana will have to take some bold new initiatives and adopt a policy which recognises no sacred cows.

There was, the President said, a need to maintain the morale and enthusiasm of the Guyanese people and to maintain a dynamic environment.

ENDEAVOUR

He said there was need for a disciplined collective endeavour involving the Party, the Government, the public and private sectors, co-operatives, trade unions, socio-economic organisations and individuals.

The Government, he added, want initiatives to take place within a formal legitimate framework so that the entire nation may benefit.

And, on the question of individual initiative, Cde. Hoyte noted that while the Government will be encouraging this it does not propose doing so within a framework of a crab-barrel society for individuals must recognise their obligation to society.

And, elaborating on the five basic areas for immediate attention, Cde. Hoyte stressed that the foundation for success in

whatever Guyanese did must be the strengthening of national discipline entailing, among other things, a systematic and planned approach to our work, dealing effectively with waste which occurs in various ways including thefts and carelessness.

ASSETS

The Local Democratic Organs and citizens of this Republic are enjoined by the Constitution to preserve national assets.

President Hoyte enjoined General Council to come up with recommendations for dealing with the serious problem of transportation, whether the economy could continue to carry non-strategic enterprises which fail to generate surpluses, and the high prices of basic food items.

Cde Hoyte noted that Guyana has shown the world that we can survive on our own resources but that while there has been an increase in the production of vegetables and fruits we find the phenomenon of high prices with some vendors preferring to dump produce rather than lower their prices.

At the same time, he added, Guyana has become a smugglers' paradise and smuggling continues to have widespread and deleterious effects on the national economy.

General Council, he said, should be brutally frank in dealing with these problems.

Report on Council Session

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 86 p 1

[Article by Courtney Gibson]

[Text]

THE General Council of the People's National Congress is scheduled to conclude its meeting today after four days of deep debate and discussions the highlights of which have been two major presentations, each lasting two hours, by Party Leader President Desmond Hoyte.

The meeting began at Sophia on Thursday and the tone was set immediately by Cde Hoyte who spoke about the need for new and bold initiatives to be undertaken by the Party and the Government it leads and who detailed five main areas upon which attention must be focused immediately to move Guyana forward to an area of dynamism and prosperity.

The current meeting is the first for this year and the first since the December 9 presidential, general and regional elections.

Several new faces are in evidence at the meeting and a few minutes were set aside Friday afternoon for the new members of the Council to introduce themselves.

In the words of General Council Chairman Dr

Mohamed Shahabuddeen, Cde Hoyte's address on the opening day was refreshing and invigorating. It was also one of the profoundest presentations made to General Council, the highest decision-making forum in between Congresses of the Party, and a forum for vigorous, constructive and honest debate.

Cde Hoyte's first presentation which was made in the presence of scores of special invitees including the heads and other senior officials of public sector entities and of the trade union movement, generated in depth and deep debate with several persons advancing suggestions for tackling the problems and issues of the day.

These included the need for strengthening national discipline, the protecting and preserving of national assets, the state of public transport, the performance of some entities in the state enterprise sector, and the high cost of some food and other basic items.

Much of the time on the second day was devoted to detailed discussions on the

performance and state of the national economy. These discussions were led by Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, Cde Haslyn Parris who spent some time reviewing the performance of corporations and companies in the public sector.

Yesterday, following Cde Hoyte's second major presentation to the Council during which he dealt with a wide spectrum of internal Party matters, the meeting multiplied itself into ten regional groups to consider the Leader's presentation as a basis for refining their developmental programmes for 1986.

The ten regions will each submit their reports and recommendations today.

From all indications, the current General Council meeting will go down in the records as one of the Party's most significant in terms of dealing with the issues at hand and taking advantage of the prevailing circumstances to facilitate the new era of dynamism and prosperity. Cde Hoyte spoke about in his profound presentation which lasted two hours, almost to the second, last Thursday.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

HOYTE COMMENTS ON VARIETY OF DOMESTIC ISSUES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

In the year-end issue of Caricom Perspectives, 1985, Guyana's President, Cde Desmond Hoyte was featured in a special interview.

The discourse, covering a wide range of issues is of special relevance and interest to Guyanese. New Nation today shares some of Comrade Leader's comments with its readers.

BIRTH PAINS

Cde Leader affirmed that Guyana is measuring up very well indeed in these difficult times. He said, "Notwithstanding the difficulties, we have been able to hold our economy together. Most important of all we have been able to maintain our food security."

Speaking of Guyana's attempts to restructure its economy Cde Leader noted, "The pains we are going through are not in vain. They are pains that will result in a better stronger, more viable economy."

ON THE SMALL MAN

Cde Hoyte stressed that Guyana's tri-sectoral economy has an important role for the private sector, and noted that the prospects are very good for liberating entrepreneurship for utilizing Guyana's resources.

He added "I think that over the past decade and a half, a new breed of

young, innovative Guyanese entrepreneur has arisen, and these people are doing quite well...they have been working in close co-operation with the government."

"We have encouraged the local entrepreneur in a number of ways. We have very attractive fiscal incentives and have tried to keep close to the businessmen." Cde Leader then outlined details of the establishment of GUYMIDA and his Presidential Advisory Council for the private sector.

Of major import is the need to widen horizons to overcome the barriers to trade erected by limited local and export markets and limited access to financing and technology. He then outlined a model where a local or Caricom partner along with a foreign partner co-operate in a marriage of mobilising capital and exploiting natural resources for mutual and equitable benefit.

ON PUBLIC WELFARE

Comrade Leader indicated that "as far as practicable", production and investment in national welfare programmes (education, health etc) "should go in tandem".

"Really, when you total up the things we have done in Education and Culture, I think it is a

pretty good record", and commenting on health developments. "All of these things have had a dramatic impact on people's lives", Cde Hoyte concluded, "I think that the expenditure is very well justified and has had a lot to do with people's attitudes to work, to understanding of the problems, of what they should be doing in the society, to the economy. It has been really one of the factors which have helped to maintain really tranquil conditions".

Commenting on the institutional bases for co-operativism, which has been articulated for Guyana's development, Comrade Leader said, "I think we did not insist sufficiently on people putting in their own resources. We thought that if Government put in the resources, that was fine; they would move. But I think that's a mistake for Government to supply all or the preponderant part of the resources for

any co-operative..."

Cde Hoyte singled out the fisheries industry as one area in which co-operativism has thrived in Guyana. This is due mainly to the independence of the industry and initiative of fishermen, and partly to the fact that the successful co-operatives have been those "where people put in their own resources and Government has played a peripheral role in encouraging them."

ON TRANSFORMATION

Cde Leader paid tribute to Founder Leader Forbes Burnham for setting the stage for Guyana's economic and social transformation by solving the political problems of independence.

He stated, "I think his great contribution was that he gave people a sense of nationality, he gave them pride and confidence, and he instilled in them an understanding that the development of this country is a task for them".

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

UNIONS VOICE SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

PNC-Affiliate Activities

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 86 pp 2, 3

[Text]

In an invited comment, **Cde Norris Witter**, General President of the General Workers' Union outlined the union's activities and said, "Whatever gains are achieved can only be maintained through the political guidance of the people." Thus the union has found it necessary to use its influence and direct not only employees, but through diversified programmes, to also include employers as well in activities geared to narrow the existing gap between urban and rural workers.

The union has seen this need for closer relationship as one way of removing the stigma that is felt among the different groups.

Included in the G.W.U.'s programme of activities are a number of educational tours through which it is hoped, the union will seek to integrate cultures.

In addition to stepped up industrial relations, **Cde Witter** said that his union has listed high in its programme of activities ideological education.

This work load will be shared equally by the union and the employer. The G.W.U. will also mount a series of seminars in those regions

where the union is the bargaining agency.

The Guyana Labour Union, too is using its responsibility to workers to fulfil the task given it by President **Hugh Desmond Hoyte** in his capacity as President General of the G.L.U. when he addressed the inaugural meeting earlier this month.

In that address **Cde Hoyte** told the G.L.U. members that they must go into the field, factory and office to ensure that all the unorganised are organised.

Cde Carvil Duncan, General Secretary of the Guyana Labour Union, said that based on the call by **Cde Hoyte**, the G.L.U. has worked out a programme geared to accommodate all the features necessary to adhere to the call.

Commencing next Sunday the G.L.U. will mount a series of meetings in all the branches.

Cde Duncan explained that the G.L.U. has planned an educational programme and has already contacted related organisations advising them on the joint educational programmes planned for this year.

These sessions will seek to improve the skills of employees while the ideological training

programme is geared to improve the ideological consciousness of workers. Added to the two areas mentioned the Union also plans to hold symposia on topical issues. In this case a wide cross-section of the people would be involved.

The Guyana Teachers' Union is also holding the line in its pursuit to stand up for Guyana in 1986 and has intensified its programme of activities.

It was disclosed that in an effort to upgrade the skills and quality of teachers the G.T.U. has planned commencing July, upgrading courses in mathematics, reading and science on a countrywide basis to improve the competence of teachers who have no more than five years of trained service.

These seminars are to be facilitated by the Ministry of Education and the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

There is also the upgrading courses for nursery and primary school teachers assisted by the Teachers Training College to assist them to get into college.

Starting this year also is the Teachers Intermediate Examination which replaces the End of Third and Fourth Year Examinations.

Cde Richard Persico, General Secretary of the G.T.U. said that all of the unions' efforts are directed to the area of standing up for Guyana in that "we go from branch to branch and preach the gospel — we are one with the President

and the Prime Minister of Guyana."

Cde Persico said it is important that a positive attitude to punctuality and high standards begin at school. This can only be achieved if the teachers are moulded along those lines.

TUC Plan

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 26 Jan 86 p 9

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text]

THE Guyana Trades Union Congress has agreed on a 15-point Action Programme for implementation this year. The plan includes a review of relationships among affiliates and the defining of a basis for a better relationship with the Government.

Trades Union Congress General Secretary Joseph Pollydore said that the significant document was agreed on at last Wednesday's executive meeting.

That meeting also discussed what are the likely effects of the National Budget which is in the process of preparation, incentive schemes for 1986 and Guystac Travelling Allowances. Speaking to the *Sunday Chronicle*

yesterday, Cde. Pollydore disclosed that the T.U.C.'s Economic Research Committee has since met State Planning officials and discussed the budget.

But, he could not divulge any information on the matter since it was essential that all matters pertaining to the National Budget be not made public until the presentation of the Budget in the National Assembly.

The T.U.C. General Secretary said that the Executive meeting on Wednesday also discussed the delay in payment of the

Guystac Travelling Allowances as agreed between the T.U.C. and Guystac.

According to Cde. Pollydore, "several affiliates concerned have made representations to the T.U.C. insisting that there should be no further delay in payment."

The veteran trade unionist said that the T.U.C. hopes to raise the question of the delay in payment of the Guystac Travelling Allowances with the Finance Minister tomorrow. Comrade Pollydore explained that the T.U.C. is expected to meet Senior Minister of Finance Carl Greenidge tomorrow to discuss a number of matters.

The 15-point action programme for implementation this year includes — labour legislation; wages and salaries package negotiations; National Insurance; Annual Delegates' Conference; May Day arrangements; Enmore Martyrs' Day; review of organisational relationship among TUC/ Affiliates; relationship with the Government; Trades Union Youth Movement; financial position of the Trade Union Movement; Voice of Labour; production and productivity; industrial relations; recruitment of new members and education.

Worker-Participation Plan

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 86 p 4

[Text]

EXECUTIVE Chairman of the Guyana Electricity Corporation Joe Holder yesterday stressed that Workers Participation in Management is a valuable system which leads to the greater production and productivity of a work place.

The Executive Chairman stressed the fact while declaring open a three-day Participation in Management seminar at the Ministry of Education Training Division, Kingston, which is being sponsored by the Ministry in collaboration with the Guyana National Printers.

Comrade Holder went on to say that some people however, see talks and meetings as not being productive work and thus claim that they are not worthwhile and should be kept short. "There is a need to convince these people that meetings such as this are worthwhile, and that they lead to greater production" he said.

Comrade Holder told the participants that they should relate to Article 15 Part 4 of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, which states: "National economic planning shall be the basic principle of the development and management of the economy. It shall also provide continuous opportunities for the working people to exercise initiative and to develop a spirit of creativity and innovation."

The Chairman also pointed out the relevance of Article 16 which states;

"Co-operativism in practice shall be the dynamic principle of socialist transformation and shall pervade and inform all interrelationships in the society."

Comrade Holder, who pointed out that the constitution should be referred to more often, urged participants to remember that they are part of a large effort in the society to develop co-operativism.

He closed by wishing participants a pleasant seminar, stating that soon corporations would be able to sit and discuss and compare their workers' participation in management seminars.

The objectives of these seminars are to sensitise workers to understand the concept of workers participation in management, to create an awareness of the need for workers participation to enhance national development, and to assist workers to formulate a system of workers' participation in keeping with the needs of their organisation.

The next workers participation in management seminar is expected to take place on January 30 and 31 in Region Six, and will involve the Guyana Transport Services Limited.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

NEW GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS, DUTIES OF LEADERS REPORTED

Cabinet Meetings

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

A new arrangement is being put in place whereby the Cabinet will meet fortnightly instead of weekly as in the past.

At these fortnightly meetings, the Cabinet will deal with matters of policy leaving the routine business to be dealt with by the Supervisory Councils.

Members of the Cabinet, apart from President Desmond Hoyte, Prime Minister Hamilton Green, Vice-Presidents Mohamed Shahabuddeen, Ranji Chandisingh and Viola Burnham, will include Deputy Prime Ministers Haslyn Parris and Robert Corbin.

Senior Ministers Rashleigh Jackson, Carl Greenidge, Seeram Prashad and Winston Murray are also Members of Cabinet.

Meanwhile, President Hoyte's responsibilities will include Home Affairs, Co-operatives and Regional Development.

Streamlining Measures

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A NEW arrangement to further streamline the conduct of Government business has been put in place. Pivotal to the new

approach will be fortnightly meetings of the Cabinet combined with a structure which groups Government activities under

24 March 1986

the supervision of Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers.

The new supervisory system removes the need for the Cabinet to meet as frequently as it did in the past when it met weekly. And in keeping with the new arrangement at its fortnightly meetings, the Cabinet will deal with matters of policy leaving the routine matters to be dealt with within the framework of the supervisory system.

Constitutionally, the President, the Prime Minister and all Vice-

Presidents are Members of the Cabinet and the President has the authority to appoint other Ministers of the Government as Members of the Cabinet.

The President may also invite other Ministers of the Government to attend meetings of the Cabinet, though not members of the Cabinet.

Acting in accordance with the powers conferred upon him, President Desmond Hoyte has appointed Deputy Prime Ministers Haslyn Parris and Robert Corbin as members of the Cabinet. He also appointed Senior

Ministers Rashleigh Jackson — Foreign Affairs; Carl Greenidge — Finance; Seeram Persaud — Transport; and Winston Murray — Trade — as members of the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, in order to help members of the public understand clearly the areas of responsibilities of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Deputy Prime Ministers and the Ministers of the Government, starting today and continuing daily, the Chronicle will publish the relevant details.

President's Responsibilities

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte, S.C. has been charged with all responsibilities not assigned to any Minister and will also be responsible for the following matters and groups of matters falling under the relevant Ministries/ Departments:

Cabinet Matters — Office of the President and the Cabinet Secretariat;
Defence and Territorial Integrity of Guyana — Guyana Defence Force;
National Security — Guyana People's Militia;
National Service — Guyana National Service;
Public Corporations — Department of Public Corporations;
Foreign Aid, International Economic Co-operation — Department of International Economic Co-operation;
Co-operatives and Co-operative Education — Ministry of Co-operatives and Kuru Kuru Co-operative College;
Regional Development and Friendly Societies — Ministry of Regional Development;
Amerindian Affairs, Craft Production and Design — Craft Production and Design Division;
District Administration Municipalities and Local Authorities — Department of Local Government;
Valuation — Valuation Division;
Water Resources — Guyana Water Authority;
Water Supply and Waste Water Disposal — Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners;
Bauxite Mining — Guyana Mining Enterprise Ltd., and the Bauxite Industry Development Company.
Gold Mining — Guyana Gold Board;
Precious Minerals and Semi-Precious Minerals Mining — Guyana Geology and Mines Commission;
Sugar Industry — Guyana Sugar Corporation, Guyana Liquor Corporation Ltd and its subsidiaries, Demerara Distilleries Ltd and Seals and Packaging Industries Ltd;
Sugar Industry Committees — Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee and Sugar Industry Price Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Fund Committee;
Maintenance of Public Safety and Order — Public Holidays, Administration of Road Traffic, Immigration, Gambling Prevention — Ministry of Home Affairs and Police Department.

Fire Protection -- Fire Protection Service;
Prisons -- Prisons Department;
National Registration -- Registration and Elections Office;
Elections -- (National Assembly and Local Democratic
Organs);
Issue of Marriage Licences and Registration of Births,
Deaths and Marriages-- Registrar General Office.

Finance Subcommittee

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A FINANCE committee which has among its functions the supervision of the preparation and implementation of the National Budget, has been established in agreement with the Cabinet.

To be known officially as the 'Cabinet Finance Subcommittee' it comprises Deputy Prime Minister, Planning, Cde. Haslyn Parris, Finance Minister, Cde. Carl Greenidge, Trade Minister, Cde. Winston Murray and Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the President, Cde. Azamuddeen Habibullah.

Four persons have been named to advise the committee, which was established in accordance with the Constitution of

Guyana. They are: Cde Patrick Farnum, Auditor General, Cde. Joseph Simmons, Secretary to the Treasury, Cde Pat Matthews, Governor of the Bank of Guyana and Cde Winston Lynch, Financial Director of Guystac.

The full range of the Committee's functions are as follows:

- To exercise general supervision of the financial offices of the State.

- To oversee and monitor the financial systems, mechanisms, procedures and performance of both Central and Local Government agencies including Corporations, boards and other entities established by the Government.

- To institute, monitor and enforce systems of financial

control and discipline throughout the service of both Central and Local Government, including the service of corporations, boards and other agencies established by Government.

- To oversee the preparation and implementation of the National Budget.

- To exercise such general authority and take such corrective action as may be necessary to enable it to discharge the aforementioned responsibilities.

The importance of the establishment of this committee must be seen against the background of the Government's avowed efforts to improve the efficiency of the government and the management of the economy.

Prime Minister's Duties

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Hamilton Green is now responsible for a number of Ministries and Departments, as published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette published on January 18.

According to the Gazette the Prime Minister will be responsible for the following matters and groups of matters:

Roads -- planning, design, construction and maintenance. (Roads Division, Hinterland Road Construction Co. Ltd.

Works and Construction -- (Building Division)

Government buildings (including quarters and their location) -- Construction Management Combine; Ayanganna Consultants, Ltd.; Guybridge Civil Engineering Co. Ltd.;

Mechanical equipment -- Mechanical Division; Plant Maintenance and Hire Division; Machinery Procurement Committee;

Electrical inspection -- Electrical Inspection Division.

Materials testing -- Materials Division;

Hydrometeorology -- Hydrometeorological Division; Communications

National Emergencies --
Post Office Corporation
Emergency Commission;
Supervisory Council for the
Utility Entities, Chairman --
Guyana Telecommunication
Corporation, Guyana
Electricity Corporation,
Guyana Airways Cor-

poration, Guyana Transport
Services, Ltd.

He is also responsible for
supervising the Ministry of
Communications, the
Ministry of Manpower,
Housing and Environment,
the Ministry of Health, the
Ministry of Information and
the Public Service Ministry.

Shahabuddeen's Duties

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 86 p 4

[Text] Vice-President First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen is now responsible for a number of matters and groups of matters as published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette published on January 18.

Dr. Shahabuddeen will be responsible for the following matters and group of matters:

All legal matters save where by law exclusively assigned to another authority (Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Chambers, Deeds Registry, State Solicitor, Public Trustee and Official Receiver's Department).

Supervisory Council for Commercial Companies (Group 1)--Chairman (Guyana Stores Ltd., Guyana Oil Company, Ltd. Demerara Sugar Terminals, Ltd, Guyana National Shipping Corporation, Ltd., Leather Crafts, Ltd., Savannah Industries, Ltd. Guyana National Printers Ltd., Guyana National Trading Corporation Ltd, Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation, Ltd., Guyana Stockfeeds, Ltd., Guyana Soap and Detergent Company, Ltd, and National Paint Company Ltd.

[In its issue of 1 February, page 1, the GUYANA CHRONICLE notes that "In response to an observation made by a reader, the Chronicle wishes to point out that in addition to the duties listed in yesterday's edition of this newspaper, Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney-General Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen OE, SC, MP is also responsible for giving general assistance to the President."]

Chandisingh Responsibilities

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

VICE-PRESIDENT,
National Mobilisation, and
Deputy Prime Minister Cde
Ranji Chandisingh M.P. is
responsible for the following
matters and groups of
matters falling under the
relevant Ministries-
Departments:

National Mobilisation --
Ministry of National
Mobilisation
Mobilisation of Women for
development and progress --
Women's Bureau
All matters relating to the
well-being of women, young
persons and children and

their development and advancement, including the implementation of articles 28, 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

Funds established by or under any written law exclusively for the benefit of women, young persons or

children.

Ideological education --
Cuffy Ideological Institute
Adult Education --
Workers' Education Unit
National events and ceremonies -- National Events and Ceremonies Division.

Viola Burnham's Duties

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 86 p 5

[Text] Cde. Viola Burnham, O.R., M.P. Vice-President Education and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister is responsible for the following Ministries/Departments according to an Extra-ordinary issue of the Official Gazette published last month.

Education...Nursery, primary, secondary, technical, and vocational, and overseas examinations--Ministry of Education and Social Development, Carnegie School of Home Economics, Government Technical Institute, New Amsterdam Technical Institute.

Loans to students--Guyana Industrial Training Centre, Cyril Potter College of Education, Lillian Dewar College of Education.

Schools broadcasts--In-service Teachers Training Programme.

Higher education--University of Guyana.

Adult education--Critchlow Labour College, Adult Education Association.

Probation--Department of Probation and Welfare Service.

Youth Development--Department of Youth and Sport.

Sport--Youth Division, National Sports Development Council.

Cultural Affairs--Department of Culture, National Cultural Centre, Burrowes School of Art, National School of Dance, National Dance Company, National Trust.

Museum--Guyana Museum.

Libraries--National Library.

Archives--National Archives.

/9274

CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

PAPER COMMENTS ON OPPOSITION 'UNPATRIOTIC' COALITION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 86 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

A PATRIOTIC organisation must support the aims of a state and nation. An unpatriotic organisation defames the nation of which it should be a part.

The recently formed or re-formed Patriotic Coalition for Democracy is in the latter category. It is not a patriotic organisation. This organisation has done its best, in the very short period of its existence, to give a negative impression of Guyana. It is therefore decidedly unpatriotic.

Since the PCD consists of five of the six parties which were defeated at the last elections and the leaders of two established churches in Guyana, it is very easy to guess what its aims and objectives are. Incidentally, if the leader of an established church had had his way, the PCD would have been formed at least three years ago.

Since its creation, the PCD has conducted a number of meetings in different parts of Guyana. The Government gave its permission. No one attempted to, and nothing was done to

hinder the PCD from doing so. The PCD has enjoyed the right of freedom of assembly and expression, but yet contends that it does not benefit from the attributes of a democratic state.

But Guyana was soon tired of the PCD. Their impact was minimal and the people were vaunted by their stale rhetoric. The PCD, or rather members of this motley group, have taken their show to the Caribbean. We warn the PCD that nothing much will come out of their circus. The Caribbean governments will not be convinced by their disinformation and may even tell them that Guyanese problems will have to be solved by Guyanese.

It is rather sad that while Guyanese are more and more addressing themselves to, and are participating in efforts to resolve our economic problems, they should be offered a minor distraction in the form of the PCD. It is certain that the PCD will not last. The respective parties will soon understand that the restoration of our economy is the essential task.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

IDB TEAM DEPARTS FOLLOWING 'FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

A THREE-MAN delegation from the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) flew out of Guyana yesterday afternoon after "fruitful discussions" with local officials, a source from the Ministry of Finance said.

According to the source, the IDB team was particularly impressed with the development projects for which joint financing by the IDB and the Guyana Government is being considered.

Among areas discussed were an agricultural credit project for which a loan of about \$15.5 million (US) is expected from the IDB, development of the Tumatumari hydro-power facilities, rehabilitation of part of the Georgetown Hospital and the Georgetown water and sewerage system.

The development of the dairy industry, upgrading of port facilities in the country and the strengthening of the primary education system also received attention.

It is understood that a number of follow-up missions from the IDB are expected in relation to the projects discussed this week.

According to the IDB

representative in Guyana, Manuel Aristy, the IDB discusses its projects every three years and missions such as the one which left Guyana yesterday are not "very common."

Since joining the financial institution in 1976, Guyana has received a total of \$211.5 million US in loans and grants to assist in its development programme.

At the end of last year about \$118.9 million US of loans approved was disbursed.

According to Aristy, more than 56 per cent of such loans had been approved under the soft loan window of the bank, which was established in 1959 to accelerate economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The amount of financial assistance to Guyana he said, has increased progressively over the years, with joint projects being undertaken particularly in the fields of agriculture, health, forestry, fisheries and education.

The latest of such ventures is a human development project which was finalised last December when the bank approved a loan of \$14.4 million US.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

PLANS FOR 'ASSOCIATION OF RELIGIOUS PATRIOTS' NOTED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 p 8

[Text]

REV. EUSTACE Semple of the A.M.E. Church has expressed satisfaction at the level of co-operation amongst the several churches which last Sunday participated in an Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service at the National Cultural Centre.

Over the years, he noted, the several churches involved, though not an organised entity, have co-operated well.

Rev. Semple who is a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Religious Affairs, said he is in the process of holding discussions with several churches with a view to forming a Guyana Association of Religious Patriots made up of religious Guyanese who are patriots.

He hopes that the organisation proposed will be launched sometime late February or early March this year.

The Cultural Centre service was initiated and co-ordinated by the Guyana Missionary Baptist Church, under the direction of Reverend Erma Miller,

Superintendent of the church.

The service was attended by representatives of several churches. These included:

The Guyana Missionary Baptist Church, The A.M.E. Church, The A.M.E. Zion Church, The Unity Church of Guyana, The Wesleyan Church, The New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) Church, Varick A.M.E. Church, Smith and Ketley Congregational Churches, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and The Raj Yogas (Brahma Kumari Spiritual University.)

Also present were individuals from the Hindu and Muslim religions.

During the service at which President Desmond Hoyte gave the feature address representatives of each church group conducted a 20 to 30-minute period of devotion, during which they sang hymns and said special prayers of thanksgiving for the recent peaceful general elections and for the victory of the People's National Congress (PNC) Party at the polls on December 9.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

PATRIOTIC COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY'S MISSION REPORTED

Barbados, Trinidad Stops

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 2 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE DELEGATION of the recently formed Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) that visited some Caribbean Community countries, was due to return home this weekend after what has been described as an "encouraging exercise" to focus on human rights violations in Guyana by the PNC regime.

The delegation, comprising Dr. Cheddi Jagan (PPP), Eusi Kwayana (WPA), Llewellyn John (representing the PDM, DLM and NDF) and later joined by N.K. Gopaul (of NAACIE for unions co-operating with the coalition), started out in Trinidad, before going to Barbados and then to St. Lucia.

Meetings were held with ruling and opposition parties, as well as representatives of trade unions, Churches, business groups and the regional media.

The members of the delegation told the Press that contrary to the impression being given at home by President Desmond Hoyte, there were governments and parties that "remain concerned about human rights in Guyana and to receiving further representations."

At their more than hour-long meeting with the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Bernard St John, on Jan. 27, the Barbadian Head of Government reiterated the position of his ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to have a human rights accord being incorporated into the

Caricom Treaty, and that "Barbados wants this accord to be supervised by a Caribbean judiciary."

The day before meeting with the PCD's delegation, Mr St John had told the closing session of his BLP of the informal meeting that took place last Sat., Jan. 25.

on the island of Mustique and attended by the Heads of Government of six of the 13 Caricom states.

"It was", said Mr. St John, "a frank exchange of opinion, not only on the concerns which have recently been expressed with respect to the elections in Guyana and other activities of that nation, but also about the trading conditions within Caricom..."

The delegation met with the Barbadian opposition leader, Errol Barrow, the following day and clarified a number of issues as reported in the media, following his recent one-day visit to Guyana to meet with Mr. Hoyte.

The delegation said that the discussions held with the executives of both the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) and the four-party National Alliance For Reconstruction (NAR) in Trinidad were as "useful" as those that took place with representatives of trade unions and other civic groups.

In Barbados meetings also were held with top officials of all the regional organisations, headquartered there.

These include the Caribbean Congress of Labour, Caribbean Conference of Churches, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce and Caribbean Publishing and Broadcasting Association.

The delegation also addressed a gathering organised by the Barbados-based "Friends of Guyana Committee, and met with the Barbados Christian Council, before leaving for St. Lucia for meetings with political parties, trade unions and other groups.

St Lucia, St Vincent Stops

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 3 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

The first leg of the Freedom Mission to the Caribbean undertaken by the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy wound up with visits to St Lucia and St Vincent.

In St Lucia, the PCD delegation met with Prime Minister John Compton as well as with Mr Julian Hunt of the St Lucia Labour Party and Mr George Odlum of the Progressive Labour Party. A joint delegation of the National Youth Council, Civil Service Association, Teachers' Union and National Workers Union and representatives from the St Lucia Workers Union also met with the PCD mission.

In St Vincent, the delegation had a two-hour interview with Prime Minister James Mitchell. Meetings also took place with Mr Hudson Tannis, leader of the opposition, the United Peoples Movement and a joint delegation of trade union representatives which included Mr Burns Bonadie, former head of the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

A welcoming party was organised by the Action Committee of the PCD to greet the delegation on its return from its successful mission in the Caribbean last night.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

RACIAL FACTOR IN NATION'S POLITICS DEEMED BROKEN

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[Commentary]

[Text]

THE luncheon hosted yesterday by the Islamic Missionaries' Guild International (IMGI) for President Desmond Hoyte, has served to remind us in a timely manner about one of the crucial aspects of the December 9 polls: The back of racial politics has been broken in Guyana.

For indeed, the back of that monstrous fellow which plagued our national life in the early sixties and continued for some while to be exploited by shortsighted and narrow-minded politicians, as they imperilled the prospects for national unity and national progress, has been broken.

This was evident from remarks made at yesterday's luncheon by both the IMGI President, Cde Nasir Khan and President Hoyte.

As President Hoyte put it in his remarks: "We have matured in this country to a stage in which in our political life, we can separate the chaff from the grain; we can differentiate between matters of substance and irrelevancies and that is why I was able to say with great confidence and accuracy and truth that the last elections we have gone through have destroyed forever the politics of race in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana."

That in a nutshell is one of the features of Guyanese political life which many political pundits — local and overseas — who seek to pontificate seem not to have realised and which the opposition groups would rather not be widely known.

The writing was on the wall long before the December 9 elections. But there is none so blind as he who will not see. For over the years, while others pinned their hopes upon support based on ethnicity, the People's National Congress, under the astute leadership of Founder-Leader Forbes Burnham, worked amongst the people of all races, all religions and other persuasions in its bid to weld the Guyanese society into a cohesive whole.

There was little wonder therefore that by the time the PNC, under the new leadership of Hugh Desmond Hoyte, went to the polls on December 9, there was an evident groundswell of support for him and the PNC. This support, as the records show, flowed from among others, the major Muslim organisations such as the Islamic Missionaries' Guild International, The Guyana United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman, The General Council of Islamic Brotherhood, The Sad'r Islamic Council and from the major Hindu organisations such as The Guyana Pandits Council and Hindu Parishad,

The Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha and The Guyana Maha Kall Religious Organisation.

There was of course, also support from bodies such as the Guyana United Apostolic Mystical Council, The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, The Church of God, The 'Guyana Missionaries' Baptist Church, The AME Church and the New Jerusalem Swedenborgian Church.

When the thousands turned out on the Essequibo Coast and elsewhere such as in Region Three to greet their new President and pledge support for and make donations to the PNC, one opposition party, reading the writing on the wall, tried to suppress the truth and said the PNC had rented the crowds.

And, by the end of the President's visit to Corentyne and the rest of Region Six, where the PPP would have the world believe that because of the ethnic composition of the population, it has a virtual monopoly of the votes, the opposition was left dumbfounded and thrown into chaos. For such was the outpouring of support for and goodwill towards Hugh Desmond Hoyte, the PNC and the Government.

Unfortunately today, more than five weeks after the elections, there are still some who rather than organise to take their parties across the racial barriers they are yet to cross, remain in their dream world apparently refusing to believe that the back of racial politics has indeed been broken in Guyana.

We hope they awake to this reality sooner than later.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

SUGAR WORKERS GET BACK PAY; DISMISSALS PROTESTED

Retroactive Payments

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 19 Jan 86 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Sugar Corporation last week paid out \$12.1 M. in retroactive payments, wages and salary increases to its workers at eight locations and Head Office departments, an official statement from the Corporation disclosed yesterday.

A further \$2.3M. will be paid out, under the same agreements, during this week to workers at Uitvlugt and Leonora.

Meanwhile in the second week of grinding operations, five estates — Albion, Blairmont, L.B.I., Wales and Leonora produced a total of 3460 tons of sugar under good harvesting conditions.

Albion increased its production from the previous week by nearly 400 tons when making 1625 tons of sugar; Blairmont which started during the reporting week produced 385 tons of sugar; L.B.I. made 440 tons; Wales produced 560 tons and Leonora, although there was a 15-hour downtime, was able to make 450 tons sugar.

A total of 6155 tons have so far been made in the First Crop and it is expected that by next week most estates will be grinding.

The Corporation feels that with the good start made for the year, there is hope that a high production rate can be achieved.

[A follow-up report in the SUNDAY CHRONICLE of 26 January, page 12, notes that a "first-crop target" of 124,000 tons has been projected by GUYSUCO.]

Union Protest

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 p 3

[Text]

THE Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors' Union (GFFSU) headed by General Secretary Cleveland Charran is alleging that some of the dismissals that had taken place in the sugar industry

over the past 12 months were unjustifiable.

A delegation from the union met Guysuco's Chairman Harold Davis last Thursday and discussed this and a number of matters affecting the union's membership.

According to Cde Charran Cde Davis informed the union that the Corporation would not close its eyes to the behaviour pattern of its employees in the sugar industry where discipline and honesty are concerned.

Charran said that the chairman however gave the assurance that those matters which deserve consideration would be examined.

As a result, he instructed the Chief Industrial Relations Manager of the Corporation Cde. D.P. Sankar to look into complaints without delay.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

ROLE, IMAGE OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO BE ENHANCED

McLean Remarks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

CHIEF of Staff of the Joint Services Major-General Norman Mc Lean has congratulated officers and other ranks of the Guyana People's Militia (GPM) for their sterling performance during last year.

Cde. Mc Lean said he is also extremely confident that members of the GPM will improve on their performance during 1986.

Speaking at the opening of the GPM's Annual Staff Training Programme on Saturday at Base Seweyo on the Linden-Soesdyke highway, the Chief-of-Staff said he is extremely happy about the manner in which training is being undertaken by the GPM.

Training officers complete a one-week training stint before, they in turn train permanent staff members. During their two-week training period, the permanent staff review per-

formances during the previous year so as to better organise themselves to train the reservists.

Cde. Mc Lean pointed out that in 1986 the Militia would have an increasingly important role to play, and urged staff members to work harder to build the numbers, competence, commitment and dedication of the reserve force.

Cde. Mc Lean also outlined a nine-point guide to improve the welfare and morale of soldiers. He stressed the need for meaningful work and training and organised recreation.

Eleven officers and 237 other ranks of the permanent staff are participating in the training exercise.

The training ends on February 1 with a 50-kilometre walk from Timehri to the GPM's national headquarters on Brickdam.

Call on Reserve Officers

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 86 p 8

[Text]

COMMANDANT of the Guyana People's Militia (GPM) Carl Morgan has said officers of the organisation must give leadership in every area of

work in order to lift the GPM's image in the regions.

Speaking at the Fourth Annual Reserve Officers' Conference at Base Soweoyo on the Soesdyke-Linder Highway recently, he noted that the Officer Corps had increased considerably. He, however, expressed the hope that more women would join the GPM at this level.

The GPM now has five female Reserve Officers and has assisted in training one female officer of the Guyana National Service.

The strength of the other ranks was about stable, the Commandant reported, although some reservists enlisted in the Joint Services Recruitment.

Cde Morgan said it is hoped that by improving the image of the organisation, more persons will join, thus enabling the GPM to effectively carry out its role.

The Commandant also urged the sports department to "win all the races this year."

The officers pledged to become more involved in GPM activities with a view to raising the general standards of the Militia.

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CSO: 3298/343

GUYANA

BRIEFS

JAGAN 'REVOLUTION' THREAT--London, Friday (CANA)--Guyana's Opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan has again warned of the danger of armed revolution in the country. "The Government of President Desmond Hoyte was soon expected to announce harsh economic measures," Dr Jagan said today on a visit to Britain to raise support for his party, adding: "This could lead to riots." Jagan, general secretary of the leftist People's Progressive Party (PPP), told reporters that if the police used violence to quell unrest, the people of Guyana could start an armed revolution to overthrow the government. But Jagan said his party sought a peaceful revolution. "I believe in mass action. Without that there can be nothing." [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Feb 86 p 27] /9274

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS--Personnel of the Guyana Defence Force and the Guyana National Service yesterday provided valuable assistance to the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in completing a five-mile long trenching exercise at the Timehri international airport. A CAD release said "in a magnificent display of their commitment to the development of the nation, the Chief of Staff, senior officers and over 1,000 men" of the two organisations exposed the old runway edge lighting cables. This trenching exercise is the first phase of a project to replace the present runway edge lighting system with a new modern system. The project is being financed by the Government of Guyana. The new system, valued at approximately \$250,000 (G), has already arrived in the country. The new lighting system will be installed over the next three to four weeks, the release said. The release noted that without the assistance of the disciplined forces the trenching exercise which was finished today would have taken several weeks to complete and would have cost about \$21,000. And a senior CAD official praised the efficient manner in which the exercise was carried out by the disciplined forces. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 pp 4-5] /9274

PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE--Trade Minister Winston Murray yesterday reassured Executive members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the Government will continue to provide for the meaningful involvement of the local private sector in economic activities aimed at strengthening of the Guyana economy. This assurance was given yesterday when Executive members of the Chamber paid a courtesy call on the Trade Minister at his Main and Urquhart streets office. The Chamber's Executive, for their part, pledged full co-operation with the Trade Ministry in the search for solutions to the

problems with which the Ministry was to grapple. Those present at the meeting were Cde Wainwright McKenzie--President; Cde Charles Quintyn--Senior Vice-President; Cde J. De Freitas--Vice-President and Cde George Fung-on--Senior Executive Officer--all of the Chamber and Cde Patrick Mootoo Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade. It was Cde Murray's first meeting with the Executive members of the Chamber since his appointment as Trade Ministers. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 86 p 1] /9274

POLICE SURVEILLANCE--WPA's Member of Parliament called on the Commissioner of Police in a recent letter to ensure that WPA members in the Essequibo are free of Special Branch and other police harassment. In his letter of 14th January, he pointed out that under the Guyana Constitution persons were free to support a party of their choice without "undue police harassment". Ms Karen de Souza of the WPA, who just returned from the Essequibo Coast where she has special responsibilities, reported to OPEN WORD that police surveillance on citizens there has increased. A Special Branch policeman reportedly offered Mr Dhanny \$1000 to pass on information on the WPA to the police. OPEN WORD sees the possibility of direct threats to the citizens' safety. The letter from the WPA MP ended: "While our supporters attract a great deal of surveillance everywhere, I am concerned about persecution and harassment of persons who are not in daily touch with our office." [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 20 Jan 86 p 2] /9274

WPA OFFICIAL'S TOUR--WPA announced the return to Guyana recently of Andaiye, the party's International Secretary. The leading WPA Central Committee member carried out assignments in the UK and Canada. She had valuable conversations with groups devoted to human rights, the Socialist International and the British Labour Party. The snap nomination day caught her far away from home and Guyanese missed her contribution on the platform of the WPA. [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 20 Jan 86 p 2] /9274

CSO: 3298/343

HONDURAS

AZCONA SELECTS HEADS OF DECENTRALIZED AGENCIES

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Jan 86 p 6

[Text] The president-elect has nearly completed the list of appointees to the various autonomous government institutions and ministerial posts, although a few have not yet been chosen, according to Jose Azcona Hoyo himself.

According to sources, Jorge Epaminondas Craniotis has been named manager of the National Port Enterprise (ENP). Jack Arevalo Fuentes will head the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE), while the National Housing Institute (INVA) will be directed by Mario Pinto. Jose Gutierrez Navas will lead the Autonomous Municipal Bank, while the National Agricultural Development Bank (BANADESA) will be headed by Armando Erazo. The National Supplier of Basic Products (BANASUPRO) will have Luis Lozano at its head, while the Armed Forces of Honduras has been asked to provide three candidates for the post of head of the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise, although it would appear that Colonel Jose Serra Hernandez has the greatest possibilities.

It has been established that the General Civil Service Directorate will be guided by Donaldo Valladares and that those named to the board, Jaime Rosenthal, Jose Pineda Gomez and Alfredo Fortin, will officially advise President Azcona Hoyo on the economic, judicial, health, labor, education and social assistance issues.

It has also been announced that Rodrigo Castillo has been confirmed as the minister of natural resources, while Jose Montenegro and Guillermo Arias Guillen are named as undersecretaries. Jose Trinidad Oqueli is said to be the next vice minister of public health, while Elisa Valle de Martinez Paveti will head public education. Edmond Bogran will go to the Ministry of Finance, while the National Agrarian Institute will be led by Mario Espinal. The new secretary of culture and tourism will be Arturo Rendon Pineda and Celeo Arias Moncada will be the minister of the presidency. Neptaly Montoya will serve as vice minister of labor and the president's private secretary will be William Hall Rivera.

Among the secretaries of state still needed to fill the post of secretary of government and justice, economy, and labor and defense, the names given are Efrain Bu Giron, Oscar Melara and Colonel Roberto Martinez Avila respectively.

It has also been reported that one of the posts of undersecretary of economy will be entrusted to Dario Hernandez (former manager of the Honduran Agricultural Marketing Institute) and that Guillermo Caceres Pineda, former consul in San Francisco, will be the new vice minister of foreign relations.

HONDURAS

INCOMING FUSEP LEADER PROMISES CRACKDOWN ON CRIME

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Jan 86 p 9

[Text] In a speech delivered on the occasion of the 104th anniversary of FUSEP [Public Security Force], Colonel Diego Landa Celano said that "only a month ago, the High Command honored me with appointment to this post" and "I accepted with discipline the honor bestowed upon me."

Landa Celano expressed his "conviction that I will direct all of my actions toward fulfillment of my duty and to the principles of loyalty and dignity that have characterized my life as a soldier in the service of Honduras."

He said he is aware of "the grave responsibility that befalls me in accepting this post at such difficult times for national security, for we can no longer view the problem from the standpoint of the Central American context, which is critical and threatening."

Rather, we must also face "the high rate of crime that has struck our nation, along with certain signs indicating that internal subversion, which has been controlled, has again initiated its isolated activities with acts of robbery and terrorism that are normally backed by outside forces, contrary to the democratic system we enjoy in Honduras."

The year 1985, which has just drawn to a close, was, when judged from the sole standpoint of public security, also violent in Honduras, with acts of serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, burglaries, and so on.

Landa Celano then went on to say that "we must agree that the Public Security Force has acted at all times with energy in putting down crime. It has done its utmost to perform its constitutional duty, but as has been said repeatedly, for reasons of a social and economic nature, the police have not been able to expand adequately as demanded by the rising crime rate."

The duty of the police in these times is extremely difficult, he said, and in general, their social work is not understood, for they receive more criticism than recognition. "However," he stressed, "we must be inflexible in the performance of our duty, always acting within the law and with maximum respect for human rights and the dignity of individuals."

"We recognize that on some occasions, there have been police officers who have abused their authority and have committed crimes against the citizenry. In all cases, I have been informed that those responsible have been turned over to the courts for trial and punishment and this will continue to be the case," he said.

"But I would also like to inform you that my men have the right to be defended, especially when accused by persons who have violated the law, persons who take advantage of the right conferred upon them by the constitution, and that the only sin these men have committed has been to defend their own lives in the performance of their duty, in most cases.

"I call upon the Ministry of Public Education so that, by joining together, we may seek common objectives aimed at creating a sense of social responsibility among our children and young people being taught in our schools and colleges. It is the teachers who must establish the moral and civic foundations making it possible to form a healthy conscience in our young people, keeping them safe from vice, corruption and crime, Landa Celano said.

The high official named national enterprises such as Honduran Savings and Rivera and Company, which for years have given the Public Security Force their valuable cooperation in achieving the national objectives we share. "They know of the efforts we are making in the training and discipline of our men."

"We can do little in the performance of our constitutional duty," he said, "if we do not have the determined support of the people, of honest, law-abiding citizens and persons of good will."

Landa Celano told of the concern of the National Crime Prevention Campaign and expressed his desire that "those with the greatest responsibility in the formation of healthy public opinion will hear this appeal and lend the aid we shall need to help the Honduran people and establish democratic institutions."

Finally, he said that he wished "to express the recognition and thanks of the Public Security Force to the president and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces for the constant support and cooperation he has given to the police in the development of their programs, the improvement of their facilities and the training of personnel. On behalf of all members of the Public Security Force, we promise to do our utmost and carry out our responsibilities with the greatest efficiency. Thank you."

11,464

CSO: 3248/226

HONDURAS

JIMENEZ ON CORRUPT JUDGES, SUPREME COURT PLANS

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Salomon Jimenez Castro, has warned that "corrupt judges had best pack their bags" because he intends, in taking office, to improve the administration of justice in Honduras.

The chief justice also categorically stated that the justices on the court will exclusively be concerned with administering justice and not involved in politics, which will be left to party leaders and their political movements.

"The new Supreme Court of Justice will be totally apolitical. We have come here to administer justice, not to engage in politics, which we shall leave to party leaders and their followers. We are going to work according to the constitution of the republic and its laws," the chief justice said.

Concerning the little or no importance which authorities in the branch and even the police have attributed to personal resources, which has been criticized by human rights defenders, Jimenez Castro said that "the Honduran people may be sure that during my administration, the law of protection will be fully enforced in its application, which is highly liberal.

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, in the law of protection that can be evaded if it is strictly applied, but in order to be successful, we need the cooperation of other spheres of government," he added.

Relating to any cases that may be pigeonholed before the Supreme Court, Jimenez Castro said that "if there are any, we will immediately get them out and return them to the proper jurisdictions. For our part, we shall not deliberately delay proceedings."

The chief justice, who said that the budget of the Judicial Branch this year is 12 million lempiras, announced yesterday, upon assuming office, that the first action of the Court will be to choose personnel to work in the different courts of the country.

He warned that capable, honest, hard-working people willing to work for the cause of justice will be chosen, for this is what President Jose Azcona Hoyo has requested.

"We are going to discuss changes among judges, but we are also going to see that injustices are not done, because among those currently serving, there are honest citizens who have committed no corrupt act and for whose removal there is no basis, outside of their political ideology," he said.

He added that he was retired but that his pension was suspended because the Foreign Ministry had immediately called upon him to act in an advisory capacity.

Supreme Court magistrates also debated the hierarchical aspect in the Judicial Branch yesterday. The latter grants seniority to Jimenez Castro based on his age and the amount of time exercised in the profession.

11,464

CSO: 3248/204

HONDURAS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AZCONA MEET, COOPERATION OUTLOOK POSITIVE

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Jan 86 p 7

[Text] "We are sure that President Jose Azcona Hoyo comes with the best intentions of working for Honduras, for he has clearly said that private enterprise is an important point for achieving the country's development," Emilio Larach, former president of the Tegucigalpa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said yesterday.

"The members of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise met with Azcona Hoyo when he was the president-elect and expressed their views to him. What we want is for him to hear the observations we have to make and to work on those matters of national interest to the country," he continued.

The official said that the true businessman is always willing to invest when he sees that circumstances permit it and when a government is headed by a president who truly wants the development of Honduras.

"That is what prompts him to invest and we are sure that Azcona Hoyo comes with the best intentions of working for Honduras, for he has said that free enterprise is a very important point for the national development," he emphasized.

Regarding the question of whether businessmen need to participate in the government, Larach said that "what we are asking is that we be taken into account like other sectors, like the workers and peasants. Actually, we do not want to participate in the government, but our duty is that when the circumstances are such that they do not permit investment, we must say so, so that the defects may be corrected.

"We understand that the new president's economic advisers are aware of these problems, which must be overcome in order to give the investor confidence, he added.

"For a long time, the Chamber and businessman have wanted the politicians to hear them and now that Azcona Hoyo begins his administration, he has the opportunity to invite all sectors to engage in a dialogue and thus help to solve the problems," he noted.

Concerning the announced devaluation of the currency, he said that "the parity of the lempira cannot be maintained with words. We must work. Domestic effort is important and becomes even more important when we know of our dependency and of outside aid.

"We have to work to produce what Honduras consumes and we have to produce in order to export and generate foreign exchange, so that the lempira will maintain its value and not lose the purchasing power of the Honduran people," he concluded.

11,464

CSO: 3248/204

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

RODISMO SUPPORTS AZCONA GOVERNMENT--The Rodist Liberal Movement will support the government of Jose Azcona because to do otherwise would be "to stab ourselves in the back," Deputy Mario Prieto Alvarado, member of the Rodist board, said yesterday. "We have to support Azcona's government because he is a liberal and if we Rodists should lead him to administrative defeat, then we would be defeating ourselves," the political leader added when interviewed, but before learning of the Azconism-MONARCA [Rafael Callejas National Recovery Movement] negotiations. However, he said that Rodism would continue to work to return to power in 4 years and that Roberto Suazo Cordova would continue to be the movement's top leader. Coordination of the movement will resume on 28 January. "For us, Suazo Cordova continues to be the only leader of Rodism, not only because we trust his intelligence and good faith, but because we know that he understands and practices the philosophy bequeathed to us by Modesto Rodas Alvarado." Prieto Alvarado went on to say that the Rodist leadership is confident that Azcona's aides will not carry out massive layoffs of Rodists working in public administration. "It is not possible that Azcona would make a sweep of public employees, especially liberals, because we Rodists contributed to the victory of the Azcona-ALIPO [People's Liberal Alliance] with 250,000 votes, without which it would never have come to power," he concluded. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 47]
11,464

CORRALES DENIES DISSENSION--Hernan Corrales Padilla, top leader and former presidential candidate of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party (PDCH), said yesterday that it is not true that there is a "split" in that political group over political ambitions. He admitted only that there is some "disagreement" between two fronts at the present time. "There is no split. What is happening is that the PDCH is going through one of its historic periods (the election of its national and local leaders), which is why two fronts have grown up around its leaders, causing a discrepancy," Corrales Padilla said. "Disagreement in the PDCH is part of its democracy," Corrales Padilla added, but he deplored the fact that the situation should be reflected in the National Registry of Persons (RNP). "I hope that the persons they get from that organization and who work with the PDCH, either out of lack of ability or dishonesty, never do so as the result of fighting factions," he observed. He recommended that "there should be fairness among all members, whatever their faction." The fight over power within the PDCH will come to a head in June when, following elections of municipal and departmental boards, there is an

election of the new president of the political grouping. At the present time, there are two factions, one headed by Efraim Diaz Arrivillaga, which has nominated Ruben Palma, a newcomer to the PDCH, and another led by Miguel Angel Ortiz, which has nominated the founder of the Fernando Montes Party for the presidency. This has generated a traditional internal struggle within the PDCH, reflected in the stability of Christian Democratic workers in the RNP. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 18 Jan 86 p 6] 11,464

CASTRO HEADS PRESIDENTIAL HONOR GUARD--The Armed Forces have named Colonel Rafael Castro Arita as the new chief of staff of the Presidential Honor Guard, the military unit responsible for the personal security of the president of the republic. Castro Arita replaces Colonel Juan Ramon Pena Paz, who headed the Presidential Honor Guard for 4 years. The appointment of Castro Arita came at the request of the new president, Jose Azcona, who chose him from a list of officers presented to him by the Armed Forces. The other candidates for the post were Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez and Colonel Alvaro Romero Salgado. Castro Arita is the brother-in-law of the new president of the National Congress, Carlos Montoya. At the same time, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, General Walter Lopez, announced that effective immediately, a new chief of staff of the Presidential Honor Guard will be named every 2 years, which decision will be part of the normal rotations that take place annually in the military institution. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 27 Jan 86 p 8] 11,464

RODAS VICE MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY--President-elect Jose Azcona Hoyo has chosen the daughter of the late leader of the Liberal Party, Ana Joaquina Rodas Baca, as vice minister of the presidency. Rodas confirmed the report last night. She has been serving as general director of social welfare and is the second woman to occupy another high post in Azcona Hoyo's administration. Elisa Valle de Martinez is the new minister of education. Rodas said that she will work to ensure the well-being of the Honduran people, closely echoing the feelings of her father in this. She will work in that office of government with Celeo Arias Moncada, who a few days ago was chosen by Azcona Hoyo as his minister of the presidency. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 27 Jan 86 p 8] 11,464

CSO: 3248/204

JAMAICA

PARISH COUNCIL DIVESTMENTS BRING WORKER LAY-OFFS

96 in St Thomas

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Ninety-six employees of the St. Thomas Parish Council have lost their jobs as a result of the divestment of the Council's markets and public cleansing department; the work has been given to eight contractors.

With the divestment of the public cleansing department and markets, the Council has completed its divestment programme and no longer has responsibility for road and works, poor relief, public health, water supplies, public cleansing and markets.

Public cleansing has now been divided into three zones — East, Central and West.

The Secretary of the St. Thomas Parish Council, Mr. Grant, said the Council would maintain a supervisory position over those areas, ensuring that guidelines for garbage collection were followed. Three garbage trucks, on the directive of the Ministry of Local Government, have been lent to the three contractors, who will maintain the units.

The Parish Council still has full responsibilities for sub-division and building applications, cemeteries, parks and gardens, abattoir and beaches, Mr. Grant said. With regards to beaches, Mr. Grant said the Council was aware of the deplorable condition of the public bathing beaches, the Prospect Beach in particular but, despite representations to the Ministry, no funds had been forthcoming to do the necessary repairs and cleaning.

The divestment programme has also affected the Council's administrative staff and so far six have been made redundant. Mr. Grant said that there was the possibility that more administrative staffers would lose their jobs.

140 in Westmoreland

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Feb 86 p 3

[Text]

The 140 workers employed to the Public Cleansing and Market Departments of the Westmoreland Parish Council will be laid off over the weekend.

Addressing the monthly meeting of the Council on Thursday, Secretary Miss E.G. Innerarity said that the 110 employees of the Public Cleansing Department would be laid off on Friday (today); the divestment of the department being effective on Saturday, when all 30 workers in Market Services would also have their employment terminated.

Consequently, the Council decided that the Savanna-la-mar market be closed for four days effective on Monday to facilitate extensive repairs.

According to Miss Innerarity, under the leave agreement, the Public Cleansing Department would be contracted for six months, at the end of which the agreement would be subject for renewal based on performances.

She however noted that all markets with the exception of the Savanna-la-mar market would be leased for one year. The Savanna-la-mar market would be leased for two years to allow the contractor to cover his repair cost.

/9274

CSO: 3298/344

JAMAICA

PNP SUPPORTERS STAGE PROTEST OF NEW TAX MEASURES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Scores of People's National Party supporters yesterday protested in front of three revenue offices across the island against new taxes imposed by the Government.

The demonstrators waved placards outside the collectorate offices in Half Way Tree, Mandeville and Montego Bay, chanting slogans against the tax measures just imposed.

In a statement yesterday, Party General Secretary Paul Robertson said that the move was to remind the public of Mr. Seaga's promise last June that there would be no further taxes for the rest of the fiscal year.

It was also aimed at protesting what he called the "inequity" of the massive cost of registration plates for motor vehicles. The cost of the plates was unfair to the elderly, he said.

He said that despite "savage" increases in taxes, breaking a JLP 1980 manifesto promise not to impose heavy taxes, there had been a reduction of the services usually provided to the people.

"While the decline in bauxite/alumina industry is a contributory factor in the decline of the economy, the real problems have been caused by the policies being pursued by the Seaga regime," he said.

The bauxite levy had given 50 per cent more to the Consolidated Fund in five years of the JLP Government than in the five years of the last PNP Government, Dr. Robertson said.

Tax revenue of 1984/85 more than doubled that of 1980/81, while the projection, he said for this year would be \$3 billion.

Party Chairman, Mr. P.J. Patterson led the protesters in Kingston; Deputy General Secretary Mr. Donald Buchanan, was at the head of those in Mandeville, while Vice President, Miss Portia Simpson led those in Montego Bay.

/9274

CSO: 3298/344

JAMAICA

TOURIST NUMBERS UP SLIGHTLY, BUT SPENDING DOWN IN 1985

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

Tourist arrivals in 1985 were 846,716, a modest increase of 2,942 over the 843,774 who visited in 1984, according to figures released by the Jamaica Tourist Board. But they brought in US\$12.6 million less than the \$406.6 million earned in 1984.

Tourism earned a total of US\$394 million for 1985 compared to US\$406.6 million for the 1984 calendar year and accounts for 30% of or just under one-third of the country's economic earnings. This is the largest single foreign exchange earner for the country.

Of the \$394 million earned in 1985, an estimated US\$380 million was earned through stop-over visits (two or more days) and \$14 million from cruise shipping and armed forces visits which accounts for a significant amount of tourist arrivals.

Stop-over visitors declined from 603,436 in 1984 to 571,713 in 1985 but significant increases in cruise passengers and members of the armed forces resulted in an overall increase in visitors last year.

In cruise shipping, there was an increase in arrivals from 231,039 in 1984 to 261,508 in 1985. Armed

forces visit for that same period improved from 9,299 in 1984 to 13,495 in 1985.

While stop-over visitors were the major contributors to total earnings there was a considerable decline in the North American region for the month of December showing a figure of 33,653 for 1984 compared to 31,771 for the same period for 1985.

Figures for the same period from the following countries: Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, Latin America and other countries also decreased from 45,790 in December 1984 to 43,398 in 1985, a decrease of 5.2%.

The survey showed that for the same regions there were decreases over a 12-month period starting from 467,876 in 1984 to 433,136 in 1985 a decrease of 7.4%. Decreases were also experienced in the other regions mentioned over the same period beginning at 603,436 in 1984 to 571,713 in 1985 a decline of minus 5.3%.

Overall, the increase in tourism is measured at less than one percent, 3%, which comes mainly from cruise shipping and the armed forces.

/9274

CSO: 3298/344

24 March 1986

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

AUSTERITY PLAN INCLUDES CUTS IN CIVIL SERVICE EXPENDITURES

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 11 Feb 86 pp 2-3

[Text] Willemstad, 10 February--The Central Antillean Government has unveiled plans to wipe off a 50 million Antillean guilder (some 75 million guilders) deficit on its 1986 budget.

The plans include cuts in public spending and higher excise duties. The two measures are to replace a controversial 10 percent 'crisis hike' in income tax slapped on by former Prime Minister Maria Liberia to revive the ailing economy of the group of five islands.

Prime Minister Don Martina's government plans to raise the 50 million Antillean guilders by cuts in government spending to the tune of 23 million Antillean guilders and higher excise duties on petrol, cigarettes and luxury goods totalling over 26 million Antillean guilders.

The weekend's announcement follows disquiet in the Dutch Parliament last week that the five-island federation appeared to be dragging its heels in efforts to put its economy on a sound footing.

/12232

CSO: 3200/16

PERU

1986 BUDGET TO APPROACH 70 BILLION INTIS

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Feb 86 p A-4

[Text] The General Budget of the Republic for this year will end the year at approximately 70 billion intis (70 trillion soles), according to the annual inflation projections made by the National Institute of Statistics (INE).

This estimate was announced yesterday by Populist Deputy Aureo Zegarra Pinedo, who is a member of the Bicameral Budget Committee.

He recalled that this same amount was originally cited by his party when the current budget was discussed in Congress.

He stated that the deflated budget (with zero inflation), which totals 37 billion intis for this year, was always considered "unrealistic," as confirmed by the inflation rate of 5.2 percent that was attained this past January.

With regard to the latter statistic, he said that serious studies indicate that inflation rose to 8 percent last month.

"The 1986 budget started out with a deficit, as we announced at the time. Now this is being revealed by the figures released by the head of the INE," he commented.

He indicated that the category of food from the family basket, which is used to determine the inflation index, is assigned a 30-percent share. This is not realistic, he said, because in countries like ours it really accounts for 60 to 65 percent.

"We have macroeconomic data that reveal that inflation will be higher than 85 percent," he noted.

He also raised an objection to the fact that the Bicameral Budget Committee is approving supplementary credits corresponding to 1985 without any meeting of the members of that committee, to which he belongs.

"No official notice of any meeting has been issued," he said.

Several parliamentarians who belong to that committee are on a working tour of the United States. Among them is the committee chairman, Javier Silva Ruete of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

PERU

SOVIET FLEET CONTINUES FISHING IN NATIONAL WATERS

Contracts Not Yet Renewed

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Feb 86 p A-7

[Text] The Soviet trawler fleet continues to fish within Peru's 200-mile territorial sea even though the contracts have not been renewed due to Deputy Enrique Elias Laroza's accusations about tax debts. This was reported yesterday by the president of the Association of Peruvian Fishing Vessel Owners, Pedro Carranza Lopez.

He contended that both shipowners and fishermen from Chimbote have witnessed the aforementioned fleet in action, although fishing activities are supposed to be on "standby" until the matter of the income tax debt is cleared up.

"In other words, they used to give us 15 percent of the catch under the contracts, but now they are continuing to fish from their enormous vessels, violating Peruvian law and not giving us anything," stated the leader of the Peruvian fishing vessel owners.

Fishing Fleet Emergency

The leader once again urged that a state of emergency be declared for the national fishing fleet, which "is undergoing a critical period and is on the verge of collapse."

He said that with the incentives that have been requested from the government and an open credit of some \$10 million, national fishermen would be ready to relaunch 200 to 300 vessels to catch fish for direct human consumption, "rather than having the Fishing Ministry spend a fortune on launching 20 high-seas fishing vessels, as the minister has announced."

He noted that at present Peru exports \$250 million worth of fishmeal, fish oil, canned fish and other fish products. "If we were given support and certain exemptions, in just a year we would be in a position to export up to \$600 million worth. Moreover, this would create 2,000 direct jobs in the fishing sector, some 6,000 in the factories, and a larger number of indirect jobs," he stated.

Among other incentives for private fishing, Carranza called for an 11-percent cut in the General Sales Tax (IGV) and the creation of an internal Certex for the national industry that produces supplies such as ring nets, which cost 2 million intis each.

Finally, he asked for a 10-percent cut in the export tax on fishmeal for all exporters, whether they be the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency (PESCAPERU) or private businessmen, and that this percentage be applied to higher prices paid to the owners of fishing vessels "so that this would contribute to the recovery of the national fishing fleet."

Further Details

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Feb 86 p A-7

[Text] Soviet factory ships are currently fishing in a wide area between the ports of San Juan de Marcona (Ica) and Salaverry (La Libertad), 70 to 150 miles offshore, without legal authorization. The contracts for such fishing have expired and have not yet been renewed.

In repeating this accusation, the president of the Association of Peruvian Fishing Vessel Owners, Pedro Carranza Lopez, warned that the Peruvian sea is being plundered. "Proof of this lies in the recent catch of undersized jurel by the Cuban trawler that has been operating since last January, in violation of the regulations issued by the Sea Institute of Peru (IMARPE)."

Carranza asserted that many skippers have gone out a little farther than 80 miles and have seen Soviet ships catching large volumes of jurel, mackerel, sardines and hake, primarily.

"They process them on their factory ships and transfer them at sea to mother ships, which transport them to countries in the socialist bloc. Meanwhile, on the Peruvian market there is a shortage of fish, and prices are too high," stated the aforementioned leader.

He explained that the wide area chosen for such fishing is precisely where vessels usually go to fish because of the abundance of schools there.

No Way to Control

Based on his many years of experience in working at sea, Carranza contended that it is practically impossible to control the plundering by these ships of the "Sovribflot" fleet. There are 20 such vessels, and undoubtedly many others of the more than 200 ships allowed to fish outside the 200-mile limit under the 1972 agreement are fishing there too.

"We do not have the necessary resources, in terms of vessels and fuel, to patrol that huge area," he explained.

He indicated that the Puervian shipowners are willing to place fish on the market at \$60 a ton, instead of the \$300 a ton paid to the Cubans (according

to statements by the fishing minister) in the form of fishmeal priced at \$272 per ton.

"The only thing we ask is that the government help us out with tariffs, the IGV, and special credit so that the small 'Peas' and other vessels that fish for direct human consumption can get ahead," he stated.

Finally, he added that many of the Soviet vessels come to the floating pier at Chimbote to make repairs and buy provisions, which is done with the knowledge and tacit consent of everyone.

8926

CSO: 3348/436

PERU

SATELLITE TO EVALUATE ANDEAN WATER RESOURCES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Feb 86 p D-3

[Text] The water resources of the Andean provinces of Cajatambo, Yauyos and Oyon, declared by the government to be microregions, will be measured and evaluated by satellite in a wide-ranging scientific-technical research project covering that area.

This information was provided by a source at the Yauyos council, who stressed that the satellite research will yield comprehensive and detailed information about the agricultural species that should be planted in those places.

The installation of the satellite will be carried out through a coordinated effort by the Departmental Development Corporation of Lima (CORLIMA) and the National Office for Evaluating Natural Resources (ONERN), it was announced at a meeting between mayors and CORLIMA President Pedro Quiros Garcia.

A CORLIMA spokesman stated that this week a pact will be signed for the installation of the satellite, which should begin operating next August. It will scan some 2 million hectares.

The spokesman added that in Cajatambo, Yauyos and Oyon there are huge reserves of water resources and extensive tracts of fertile land that are not being utilized adequately or rationally.

The spokesman for the municipality of Yauyos pointed out that the three microregions are the most depressed areas in the department of Lima, and emphasized that the action undertaken by CORLIMA officials was hailed at the meeting of Yauyo mayors last month as a means of putting an end to the neglect of that province.

8926

CSO: 3348/435

PERU

INDUSTRIAL BANK SUPPORT TO FOOD ENTERPRISES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Feb 86 p A-11

[Text] The Industrial Reactivation Fund (FRI) Fiduciary Committee has agreed to follow new procedures for providing financial support to the industrial enterprises of the private sector, with special emphasis on the manufacture of foods. The FRI is headed by Adm Geronimo Cafferata Marazzi, president of the Industrial Bank of Peru.

The committee agreed to extend the payment period for the loans to 24 months, with an option to extend it further to 36 months, including a grace period of 2 quarters.

The interest rate on the FRI loans will be 2 points below the maximum rate authorized by the Central Reserve Bank.

In the case of agro-industrial enterprises or those that are established outside of metropolitan Lima, this rate will be 4 points below the maximum rate.

The spread between the interest rates will be absorbed by the Industrial Bank itself in the form of the commission it would earn as the fiduciary agent in the program.

The committee also decided to initiate seasonal loans aimed exclusively at building inventories, with a maximum term of 9 months.

To speed up the processing of these loans through intermediary financial institutions, the committee authorized the office to give these institutions "bridge loans" that will enable them to disburse the funds during the time that the loan applications are still being processed.

Another important change is aimed at guaranteeing the eligibility of businesses which have loans that are due and payable with the national banking system. At present, these businesses have no access to credit.

The committee agreed to issue regulations that would cover businesses which have refinanced their loans with creditor banks and have export projects capable of generating enough funds to cover the operating costs of the project as well as the financial costs of the loan, with the possibility of paying off part of the principal of the debt that is due.

The goal of the program is to reduce idle installed capacity, generate foreign exchange, and encourage the opening of new jobs.

PERU

NATIONAL INFORMATICS SECRETARIAT POLICIES ESTABLISHED

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 86 p E-12

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The policy to be pursued by the first national secretary of informatics has aroused great expectations, which are of course justified. The new National Informatics Secretariat has the same name as its Brazilian counterpart, which we already discussed in this column on 24 March 1985.

Ramiro Priale Zevallos will be the first secretary of informatics.

In a conversation with EL COMERCIO, Priale explained the objectives he will pursue within his jurisdiction.

First of all, the National Informatics Secretariat is drafting a series of regulations that it must submit to Congress within 30 days after the secretary's appointment. The document revolves around the formation of the /National Informatics System/ (SINAIN).

These regulations will specify the functions of the system, which will be governed by the National Informatics Secretariat.

Priale gave us a detailed account of the preliminary short- and medium-term objectives that have been laid down for the agency. We are reproducing that list here without comment.

The priority goal of the SINAIN is "to channel the agents of change and development toward the computerization of our society."

To achieve this goal, these principal objectives have been established:

/Introduce informatics in education;/ in other words, apply computer systems to didactic and educational activities, beginning at the initial levels.

/Teach informatics,/ which means including courses related to informatics and computers in the country's educational curricula, as we announced in this column a week ago.

/Optimize the utilization of the computer resources available in public and private administration./

With regard to this point, we were told that the emphasis will be placed on the public sector, because the policy regarding the private sector focuses on /incentives,/ as opposed to /government intervention/ which will be avoided in all cases.

/Promote the consolidation of national and supranational communications and informatics networks./ In other words, this refers to the expansion of communication systems and data bases and the formation of networks. It also entails determining the feasibility of connecting with existing networks throughout the world in an economical and rational way.

Expanding on the latter general objective, Priale pointed out that work is already underway to accelerate the installation of the /fiber optics belt/ that will connect the telephone exchanges of the CPT. Within that network, the segment that connects the Washington exchange with that of Miraflores is already functioning.

"This will be carried out according to a plan," he stated. "First this modern technology will be installed among the most heavily used exchanges, taking into account the needs of the private sector, especially the banks. We will give top priority to this project in the San Martin exchange, which carries the heaviest load at present; under the CPT plan, it was the last link of the chain," he added.

Within the shorter-term objectives, he mentioned the /Badales Legal Data Base/ Project, which involves the updating of the legislative data base at the Ministry of the Economy and its transfer to Congress.

In response to the usual question, he said that "an effort will be made to reduce the tariffs on computer equipment, without making them entirely duty-free."

In that regard, he refused to specify rate amounts or percentages, because apparently they have not been set yet.

Commenting on the incipient national microcomputer manufacturing industry, he said that a reduction of tariffs on components (electronic parts used to make this equipment which have to be imported) will be considered and is being requested by businessmen in this sector. Tariff protection against foreign competitors will not be provided, however.

Concerning this sector, he added that rates will be applied to specific businesses, not items, within three categories:

1. Importers of 100-percent assembled equipment.
2. Businesses that assemble complete parts that have been manufactured abroad. These businesses are known as the /"screwdriver" industry./
3. Businesses that build the equipment on the basis of minimal components.

The third category will receive the most incentives, and the first will be least favored.

In addition, the electronics industry will be regarded as a /strategic industry./

Priale believes that the tariff policy is not the only way to provide incentives.

He mentioned financial credits, and also acknowledged that the government is the main customer on the domestic market, and as such can strategically favor certain local industries.

Here are some of the 112 objectives mentioned:

A) Short Term

1. Encourage the development and translation of software into Spanish.
2. Promote the creation of chambers of suppliers/ businesses, universities and institutes that can enter into a viable dialogue with the government.
3. Tele-education, a weekly program on Channel 7.

B) Medium Term

1. Development of a system of management information at the highest level of government.
2. Tax and credit promotional mechanisms for private entities involved in informatics (data bases, etc.).
3. Certex on software exports.
4. Data bank containing information on regional opportunities.
5. Institute for research and development of software and informatics education.
6. Personal computers in public libraries.
7. Tax incentives for the installation of equipment in remote areas.
8. Correspondence course on introductory informatics.

8926

CSO: 3348/435

PERU

FRENCH SEISMIC EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR VOLCANIC STUDIES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 86 p A-15

[Text] Arequipa, 8 February--Five portable seismic stations have been placed around the Misti volcano by the French Bureau of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research (ORSTOM) and the Geophysical Institute of Peru (IGP).

The seismic survey took place between 20 January and 3 February. A seismic recording was taken of the volcano region in order to determine the location and depth of the weak movements that have been detected. This work will enable scientists to determine which nearby tremors are associated with Misti's seismic activity.

The studies were directed by three geophysicists and a geologist from ORSTOM under the direction of Dr Louis Dorbath, and a geologist and two geophysicist trainees of the IGP, under Dr David Huaman. It should also be noted that the National University of San Agustin supported and participated in the activities.

Student Participation

In addition, a dozen geophysics students helped to install and maintain the seismic stations, and two of them are in Lima now to analyze and interpret the geophysical data.

Dr Dorbath indicated that the program should be regarded as a preliminary contribution to the local university, which is developing a general program to study Misti under the direction of Eduardo Lazo Lazo.

He added that to draw conclusions about the behavior of the volcano, the seismic survey will have to be complemented by future studies of factors such as changes in the gravitational field, monitoring of deformities in the volcanic cone, and detailed studies to determine the nature and frequency of ancient eruptions.

The presence of the French scientists has been noted throughout the city. Their reports will be analyzed and then submitted to the authorities so that the appropriate measures can be taken.

8926
CSO: 3348/435

PERU

SMUGGLING TO BOLIVIA, CHILE REMAINS PROBLEM

Food, Medicines to Bolivia

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Feb 86, pp A-1, A-15

[Interview with Luis Duenas Peralta, deputy prefect of Puno, by Victor E. Rodriguez Olaechea; date, time and place not given]

[Text] Desaguadero, Puno--Food and medicine subsidized by the Peruvian Government are benefiting Bolivians through smuggling.

The six checkpoints along the highway that connects Arequipa to Juliaca and Desaguadero do not prevent the passage of thousands of tons of potatoes, onions, rice and sugar, powdered milk, and medicines.

The national merchandise crosses the border in the presence of customs authorities under the "pacotilla" system, on the backs of porters, on tricycles or across the lake, on ships flying the Peruvian and Bolivian flags.

In Desaguadero the cargo is "slapped" with a tax known as a "policy," better known as "pacotilla," amounting to 50 intis. It is paid by the Bolivian buyer on the Peruvian side, and no one knows where it goes.

In a visit to the international bridge at Desaguadero, EL COMERCIO found large quantities of food products from Peru on the Bolivian side, waiting to be sent off to La Paz. Some were even to be transported by vehicles of the Bolivian Army.

The deputy prefect of Puno, Luis Duenas Peralta, who had come to Desaguadero because of a report that trucks were there transporting greens and onions from Arequipa, ordered them returned to Puno to be marketed in the department capital.

An average of 100 trucks a week arrive in Puno from Arequipa to deposit contraband on the Peruvian-Bolivian border.

After a leisurely day trip that takes them through the checkpoints at Puno, Santa Lucia, Huascar, Ichu and Ilave (department of Puno), the trucks finally

reach Desaguadero, where they deliver thousands of tons of food to be marketed in the neighboring country.

Deputy Prefect Luis Duenas Peralta, who was on an inspection tour of this border post, confirmed that this number of trucks comes from Arequipa each week. He indicated that only 80 percent of the smuggled food is discovered, while 20 percent gets through, "mocking all attempts to police the long river border."

[Question] How much merchandise gets through to Bolivia?

[Answer] No one knows the exact amount. It all depends on the number of trucks that reach the border, but it is known that thousands of tons of food, such as potatoes, onions, fruit and even medicine gets through. In fact, we have discovered that a pharmacy here in Desaguadero sells medicines subsidized by our government.

[Question] What measures has the Prefecture of Puno taken to prevent food smuggling?

[Answer] Between September and November of last year, large amounts of sugar from sugar enterprises in the north was smuggled. It was determined that the sugar was brought by duly registered dealers, but they evaded customs controls entirely. They would leave a certain number of tons in Puno, but would take most of the shipment to the Bolivian border. The Prefecture cracked down by forming a multi-sector commission to deal with the problem. We managed to reduce the trafficking not just of sugar, but also of other foods.

[Question] One can observe onions, fruit, and powdered and evaporated milk crossing the border freely here in Desaguadero. What other products cross the international bridge?

[Answer] The Bolivians are also enjoying red meats, citrus fruits, livestock on the hoof (sheep and cattle), detergents, crackers, medicines, veterinary products, fertilizers, etc.

[Question] How does the Peruvian merchant "benefit"?

[Answer] His benefit is naturally economic. Any food or industrial product costs twice the official price on the border, and certain products are often sold for up to four times what they cost in Puno, Arequipa or Lima.

[Question] If there are so many checkpoints, how do the trucks manage to reach the border with their cargo intact?

[Answer] All goods that leave Arequipa for the department of Puno are accompanied by a transit permit issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in Arequipa. They are supposed to go only as far as Juliaca and Puno, however. If the merchandise continues on to the towns on the Peruvian side of the border, they are supposed to get another permit in Juliaca, but they do not do so. The trucks secretly go to the border with the same permit, without

dropping off the goods in Juliaca or Puno. They often use the same permit to make several trips.

[Question] But shouldn't there be some police or customs control?

[Answer] There are controls, but they manage to evade these checkpoints until they get to Desaguadero, where they sell the goods out in the open.

[Question] What is the Deputy Prefecture doing?

[Answer] The Prefecture and the Deputy Prefecture in the department are represented on the multi-sector commission named to eradicate smuggling. In the month and a half since the commission was formed, some inroads have been made against the illegal trafficking of food. There is a requirement that 50 percent of the merchandise that comes in must remain in Puno to meet the needs of the city's population, and that the remainder be distributed among the other localities in the department. This objective is being achieved partially, but there are always secret "leaks."

[Question] Have you discovered any major shipments?

[Answer] In fact, on 17 January, to be precise, we seized 2,408 tons of food being transported from Arequipa to Bolivia in 45 trucks and 15 railroad cars. On the railway, 400 tons of different greens and 200 tons of potatoes (listed on the permits as sweet potatoes), were about to pass through. The trucks were pulled over in Pomata, 100 kilometers southwest of Puno, as they were transporting 1,473 tons of onions, 48 tons of carrots, 13 tons of tomatoes, and 4 tons of fruit such as mangos, peaches, apples and watermelon packed in 218 wooden crates. All these products were marketed in Puno and Juliaca at the official price, and of course the truck drivers were punished.

Measures Against Chilean Smuggling

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 86 p A-16

[Text] Tacna, 8 February—The merchants who have made a handsome living by smuggling are becoming more cautious. In addition to the confiscation of whatever they try to bring into the country illegally, officials are rescinding the passes that enabled them to cross the border up to 6 months at a time.

In the past week, customs authorities have seized a large amount of contraband, valued at nearly 500,000 intis (500 million soles). In fact, in two Chilean-registered buses, a shipment of kerosene was discovered on its way from Tacna to Arica.

The contraband consisted primarily of color television sets, Betamaxes, tape recorders, radios, liquor, clothing, etc.

The buses that were carrying the camouflaged 10-gallon tanks of kerosene belong to the mobile units (taxibuses).

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PERU

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO SHOE INDUSTRY

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Feb 86 p A-14

[Text] In order to boost the national shoe industry, the government will lend full support to this sector, stated Vice-Minister of Industry Luis Sierralta as he inaugurated the 2nd Shoe Fashion Show known as "Lancal 2" (Shoe Launch).

Constant Dialogue with Manufacturers

Sierralta, after stressing the importance of the show, stated that his ministry is promoting a constant dialogue with shoe manufacturers. He also praised the concerted effort by the private sector, as manifested in this type of display, which will yield important results.

The opening ceremonies, held at the Independence Room of the Hotel Sheraton, were attended by representatives of Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro, an adviser to Minister of Industry, Commerce, Tourism and Integration Manuel Romero Caro, and the commercial attaches from Czechoslovakia, Italy, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Pedro Mont Koc, president of the Association of Small and Medium Shoe Manufacturers, which organized the exhibition, stated that this second event represents the first national effort by small and medium businesses in the nation to promote this industry.

Own Designs

As for the domestic market, he indicated that it is being brought up to date. It can now be said that the industry has its own designs that are equal to any on the fashion scene in Europe.

80 Exhibitors and 12 Sponsors

The show, which boasts 80 exhibitors and 12 business sponsors in the industry, will continue at the Hotel Sheraton until Friday the 7th. Visitors may admire the latest models of shoes for men, women and children.

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PERU

REGIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION IN AREQUIPA

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Feb 86 p B-8

[Text] The first Regional Advisory Commission on Science and Technology has been installed in the city of Arequipa by the president of the National Science and Technology Council (CONCYTEC), Carlos del Rio Cabrera. The purpose of the commission is to consolidate a decentralized national system of science and technology to promote the country's integral development through such processes.

"The establishment of these commissions provides recognition and incentives to the talent that exists in this nation in the fields related to science and technology, promoting scientific creativity as a function of national objectives," stated del Rio.

It was reported that these advisory commissions will be made up of leading figures in these fields in each region, but also of representatives of industry, commerce and banking. Thus, these teams will reflect the real situation and the thoughts, concerns and hopes revolving around the role of science and technology in the country.

In addition, on the occasion of the visit to Arequipa by the president of CONCYTEC, a cooperation agreement was signed with the National University of San Agustin. This pact is compatible with the policy of promoting science and technology in the universities with a view to improving knowledge of the national situation and contributing to the solution of structural problems.

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PERU

BRIEFS

COTTON INCOME DOWN--Due to the decline in the price in the last 2 years, Ica cotton producers have seen their income fall by more than \$15 million, equivalent to 262.5 million intis. Whereas in 1983 the price of cotton was \$91 a quintal, the following year the same amount of cotton fetched just \$64. In last year's season the price fell below \$58. These figures, reported in the bulletin of the Ica Farmers Association, were confirmed by Manuel Barco Fernandini, a member of that institution's board of directors. We interviewed Barco Fernandini in conjunction with the statements made by the president of the National Cotton Board, Alfredo Massaro Silva, who is a farmer from Chincha. The reader may recall that he made those statements to this newspaper, which published them on 24 January. He explained then that "due to the low prices, next year there will be a major cotton shortage." [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Feb 86 p A-16] 8926

NEW ZEALAND FLOOD AID--The \$10 million that the New Zealand Embassy in Lima was going to spend on its National Day celebration will be donated to Puno residents who suffered damages from the rains and the flooding of Lake Titicaca. The diplomatic headquarters of that country reported that it has decided to make the donation to alleviate the dire plight of Puno residents. Between 1974 and 1982, New Zealand carried out a program in that department to improve grazing lands and livestock raising. The embassy stated that in the coming months this program will be renewed; in May or June five experts will arrive from New Zealand to work with Peruvians on improving agriculture in Puno. The spokesman indicated that this month representatives of the New Zealand Dairy Board are expected to pay a visit to Peru. In addition, three Peruvians will receive scholarships to go to New Zealand and receive training at universities there. According to the New Zealand Embassy in Lima, nearly 150 years after the treaty of 1840 that created the new nation, New Zealand is emphasizing its role as a member of the Pacific Basin, developing its relations with South American nations like Peru that border on the Pacific. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Feb 86 p A-5] 8926

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ST LUCIA

LABOUR PARTY AGAIN SPURNS PLP OVERTURES FOR UNITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Feb 86 p 5

[Text]

CASTRIES, Feb. 16, AP — SAINT LUCIA Labour Party (SLP), has spurned advances from the left-leaning Progressive Labour Party (PLP), for the second time in six months, for an alliance of Opposition parties to fight the next general elections.

The island is expected to go to the polls by August, 1987, at the latest. The PLP, headed by former deputy Prime Minister George Odlum, contends that neither Opposition party, on its own, stands a chance to unseating the pro-Western United Workers' Party (UWP) administration of Prime Minister John Compton.

According to a party news release issued yesterday, the 44-member SLP Central Executive has flatly rejected a recent PLP invitation for discussions between the two groups "as quickly as possible."

Odlum is a former member of the SLP. He broke away five years ago, after a long controversy between conservatives and progressives in an administration that had just won its first electoral victory in 15 years. Odlum campaigned unsuccessfully to have then Prime Minister Allan Louisy eased out of the top spot in the Government.

The controversy triggered a series of developments, which culminated in the electorate pressuring the Government out of office with public protests in January, 1982.

SLP members still blame Odlum for the SLP's

disgrace, especially since he publicly boasted of helping to orchestrate the agitation that prompted the Government's collapse.

Long controversial for his pro-left activities, Odlum has been identified by the incumbent Government as a key figure in the recruitment of young people of study on "scholarships" in Libya. One such group was halted by police as the youths prepared to board a flight to Libya via intermediate stops.

Decision Reaffirmed

In the 1982 elections, both the SLP and the PLP were routed by the UWO. Now, with elections around the corner once more, the PLP, hit by a series of desertions from its ranks in recent years, sees its political fortunes fading fast.

Last July, Odlum suggested some sort of accommodation between the groups. The SLP convention of delegates, meeting a month later, adopted a resolution by consensus, urging the SLP not to enter into any merger or accommodation with the PLP or any other party.

But at the PLP's own long-delayed congress last month, delegates adopted a resolution of their own, suggesting that the parties meet to explore the question of a united Opposition. A formal invitation was sent to the SLP.

But this week's SLP executive decision reaffirmed what the party's delegates had decided last July, rejecting the PLP's new invitation to talks.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ROBINSON DISCUSSES FINANCIAL THREAT TO TOBAGO ASSEMBLY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

IRREGULAR release of funds by the Ministry of Finance to the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) have put the THA in a state of near shutdown of operations. According to the THA Chairman A.N.R. Robinson, the situation has reached the state where staff (daily and monthly) cannot be paid on time. The administration is in chaos and proper planning almost non-existent.

Mr. Robinson and a team from the Assembly (political and administrative) flew to Port-of-Spain yesterday specially to inform the national community of the situation through a news conference at the Holiday Inn.

He charged that the precarious position of the THA was an attempt to destroy the Assembly but no such attempts would succeed.

Anticipating problems, Mr. Robinson added he wrote Prime Minister George Chambers in his capacity as Minister of Finance since June 1985. Mr. Chambers replied through Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, and consequently two senior officers from the Ministry were sent to Tobago to deal with the matter.

"But instead of the situation getting better, it has grown worse," Mr. Robinson, Political Leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), moaned yesterday morning.

\$60m Liquid Cash

Giving an illustration of the "disastrous position of the Assembly, Mr. Robinson said:

"The entire appropriation by Parliament for our recurrent services in 1986 amounts to \$131.3 million, this does not include development. For the month of January, we requested \$8.9 million, well within the monthly average of roughly \$11 million.

"The actual amount released by the Minister of Finance by warrant was \$8.8 million. When the

Minister of Finance releases by warrant it does not mean you receive the money.

You have to apply for what is known as credits to the Comptroller General; and in the case of the THA we have to apply through the Central Administrative Services (Tobago), a step which is totally unwarranted."

Up to the end of January, he said, after going through the cumbersome procedure, the THA received only \$3.6 million of the \$8.8 million required for the recurrent services, which included payment of salaries to staff.

When contacted, an official source said that the accounts of the Assembly had always shown excesses at the end of the year and an unofficially estimate was that the

THA had liquid cash in the bank amounting to some \$60 million but of which \$20 million was committed.

The source added: "For years the Assembly has been repeatedly asked to state how much money it had in the bank but up to now this information has not been provided.

"Without that information it is not possible to properly allocate funds to the Assembly. The Clerk of the THA said the only way that information could be supplied was if the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance makes an official request. That request from the Permanent Secretary went out today.

"The Assembly has liquid cash but Mr. Robinson wants to have hard, cold cash for the next general election campaign."

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS POSTPONES OFFICIAL VISIT TO BARBADOS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister George Chambers has reportedly postponed his official visit to neighbouring Barbados for the fourth time, according to a CANA report coming out of Barbados yesterday.

The visit was scheduled to take place later this month but is now reportedly re-scheduled for some time in April. No official reason had been given for the postponement of the visit but highly placed diplomatic sources quoted in the Barbados *Sun* newspaper said that the Trinidad Government had told Barbados that the visit, originally planned for the end of this month, was "no longer convenient for matters here (Trinidad)."

The paper said the visit, first suggested by the late Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams in January last year, has now been called off four times by Trinidad and Tobago.

Chambers was to have opened the Arawak Cement Plant, owned jointly by the governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, and to have had talks with Prime Minister Bernard St John.

The EXPRESS was unable to get confirmation of this postponement from government officials here.

External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir is out of the country and no contact could be made with the Barbados High Commission in Port of Spain.

Chambers is expected to visit Grenada on Thursday to join with other Caribbean leaders in a meeting with United States President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. President is spending four hours in Grenada at the invitation of the Grenadian Government.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

STATEMENT BY LEFTIST PPM SCORES REAGAN VISIT TO GRENADA

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Feb 86 p 6

[Text]

THE left wing People's Popular Movement (PPM) in a press statement yesterday condemned the upcoming visit of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Grenada and said the visit was an "outrageous attempt to further tighten the iron clad grip of his administration over the Caribbean peoples."

In its statement the PPM said President Reagan's pending visit "represents another brazen affront to the entire Caribbean people, particularly at a time when his administration is in open collusion with the despicable and reprehensible South African regime."

"Mr Reagan's visit comes at a time when the U.S. administration is in the process of rapidly militarising the entire region and seeking, at the same time, to have it incorporated in his global aggressive plan for regional domination and control, and directed in the main, at the genuine-

ly democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces in the region.

"Ever since his inauguration as U.S. President, the region, and indeed the world, has not known a minute of peace, serenity and stability."

"The Reagan administration has attempted to stifle the national liberation and revolutionary movements, not only in the Caribbean, but throughout the Third World.

"The recent formation of the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) embracing some of the region's most right wing and backward political parties is another manifestation of the Reagan administration's aim to dominate and subjugate the entire region to the whims and fancies of the American ruling class.

"The Reagan Administration has been imposing and supporting reactionary and dictatorial regimes in numerous Latin American and Caribbean countries.

"It is also engaged in organised terrorism and banditry against socialist Cuba and revolutionary

Nicaragua. Mr Reagan has been invading in various parts of the globe and threatening the world with nuclear war.

"More important, the Reagan administration has nakedly provided all-round support to the racist-Nazi apartheid regime of P. W. Botha in South Africa. His efforts at justifying his administration's policy of constructive engagement has received little or no support from the international community.

"The visit of Mr Reagan to Grenada which has been under the heavy heels of U.S. troops and other political and psychological operation units since the infamous invasion of that sovereign nation will not bring any new hope for the people of Grenada and, by extension, the peoples of the Caribbean.

"In fact, this visit is an outrageous attempt to further tighten the iron clad grip of his administration over the Caribbean peoples. Mr Reagan is bent on militarising the region and making it into a zone of war."

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

WEEKES DELIVERS MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF OWTU, PUBLIC

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Feb 86 p 11

[Text] On Thursday January 30th 1986 at a national news Conference the President General of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union [George Weekes] delivered his first message to OWTU members and the people of Trinidad and Tobago. This message had been previously presented, discussed and unanimously approved at the Union's Statutory General Council meeting on Saturday, January 25th 1986.

We today publish as a public service, excerpts of the President General's Message.

On December 4th 1985, my address to the Employers Consultative Association (ECA) had as its theme "*Big Business and Mankind's Quest for Social and Economic Justice*". Within that theme, I informed them of the following facts: 1) The Trade Union Movement was a PEACE movement, 2) There can't be PEACE – industrial or social – without JUSTICE, 3) Big business gave birth to mankind's worse enemy – Imperialism and the meaning of imperialism is WAR, 4) Christ the '*PRINCE OF PEACE*' was crucified because he fought for JUSTICE for all.

Since my address to the ECA, we have had the visitation of the National BUDGET for 1986, the most telling aspect of which is the 50% devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar and the devastating effect it is already having and will increasingly have on the oppressed and exploited working class in particular and the future trend of industrial relations in the country as we continue our struggle for *Peace* through social and economic Justice.

BUDGET WILL TEST OUR FAITH

The BUDGET is only one of those burdens that confront us and will severely test our faith and our will in the

coming months of the year, and I could add, in the years to come.

Looming large on the nation's conscience is the planned visit to our shores of an English cricket team cursed with the presence of players who betrayed Mankind by receiving blood money while playing in apartheid South Africa.

Their intended coming brings to our doorsteps one of the most central international conflicts of our troubled times and challenges us to take a stand not only because the world community at the level of the United Nations branded apartheid as "*a crime against humanity*", but in defence of, and, for principle, for morality, for justice, for dignity, for our very humanity.

And while the cricket tour placed us at a crossroad whereby we will be forced to make a decision as to whether we are prepared to stand up and be counted among those who struggle for international justice, equality and human rights, or be counted out of that dignified number, later on in the year General Elections in Trinidad and Tobago will bring us to another crossroad.

NO FENCE SITTERS

1986 is not going to be a year for fence sitters. Certainly not in the Trade Union Movement.

Those of us who are in high positions as labour leaders will have a clear choice – to demonstrate by action our commitment to the interests of the workers whom we serve, or openly betray their cause and suffer the consequences.

I want to emphasise too that the struggle is not only for the Trade Union leaders. The rank and file must be totally involved in the battle to prevent retrenchment, greater domination and further exploitation on the part of the invisible government (Big Business) silently supported by their visible Government.

UNITED EMPLOYERS

All Trade Unionists must realise that the Employers are united against the just cause of the workers. Any child will realise that the continued disunity by leaders in the Trade Union movement in 1986 will only defeat our own cause, that is the cause of those of us who genuinely see their purpose as serving the workers.

LABOUR IN DANGER

Now, more than ever, the Labour Movement is in imminent danger of being emasculated, its militancy dispersed and its once effective bargaining strength made impotent. I know that resulting from policies secretly practised by apartheid followers in our country and the existence of anti-labour laws has been major factors in bringing this about, but to my mind the villain of the piece has been the continued fragmentation of the Trade Union Movement. Had there been honesty by leaders in working for a truly united movement uncompromisingly committed to the welfare and advancement of the working class, the situation would not have been as desperate as it is today.

In recent times we have seen a total breakdown of not only industrial relations but of the very machinery set up by the government to regulate the system. We have to look more carefully at this time at the position of government as the biggest employer in Trinago in this steadily worsening industrial climate where the Employer Class has been quick to capitalise on what is mildly termed the economic recession to justify wage freezes and mass retrenchment. Unfortunately, the record show that the Government has been more than a willing partner of the capitalist money worshipping clique.

WE MUST DEMONSTRATE

If those in authority are still bold enough to attempt it, despite the growing national outcry, we must ensure that we demonstrate our seriousness as a people whose call for Justice must be respected. The emerging national concensus on the cricketers who played in South Africa is only one small part of the national concensus which is needed now in these crucial times.

All organisations that consider themselves patriotic, whether they be Trade Unions, the Churches, political parties, business institutions or whatever, need to try and find each other this year to seek common ground as we grapple with the crisis gripping our nation, the Caribbean people and the world.

We cannot simply look forward to an upcoming election to resolve our economic woes and all the problems of national direction.

Sometimes, when we look at our nation today wallowing in corruption from the top, it is difficult to remember that the question of "*morality in public affairs*" is one of if not the main plank of the platform that thrust the present government into power 30 years ago.

SLOW POISON

But what happened? There was a slow poison that corroded even many who had the best of intentions. It can happen again. Because the poison is part of the system of capitalism, imperialism and its child-apartheidism. Governments who operate under that system end up having to make deals with apartheid or the children of apartheid in order to survive.

To understand the need for our people to be mobilised for a forceful national thrust we must look at our struggle in a wider context.

Regionally, the Caribbean, bludgeoned by the effects of International Recession, is in dire economic straits. The governments of practically all the territories are lining up to solicit loans from the various lending agencies while at the same time prostrating themselves before the International Monetary Fund and/or beg for paltry handouts from the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Those of our nationals who have regarded as distant the 360 billion dollars debt tragedies of Latin American and Caribbean Countries like Mexico and Brazil, Trinago and Jamiaca were shocked to know the rate (over \$4,000.00 owed by every citizen to international lending agencies) at which this country is becoming entangled in the bondage of crushing debt.

In order to find a way out of this perpetual indebtedness and economic depression we must pry ourselves loose from the clutches of the Capitalist-Imperialist monopolies, and their apartheid connections which live and feed and grow on other people. We must realise that the I.M.F. and the World Bank are nothing but glorified pawnbrokers of North America and Western Europe which lure us into a state of economic subservience whereby we end up pawning not only our national resources but our human dignity and our independence.

There is no reason to believe the situation is absolutely hopeless when there are examples of countries outside of the developed world that have been able to continue economic growth in this depressed period without the prop of any "magic" resource like oil was in the recent past.

Finally, I call upon all my brothers and sisters in Trinago, regardless of political affiliation or ideological belief to come together in a meaningful way to salvage all that is left of our beleaguered nation and begin the task of reconstructing the country. With patriotic commitment and sacrifice we would surely overcome the challenges that now appear to be so formidable.

They have no kind of just or realistic policy on wages or wages and prices. There is no honest dialogue with the people or the trade unions about the state of the economy or anything relevant, but they want to force public servants and other workers in the public sector to settle for a 6% increase over three years. They are fighting against an Industrial Court order, by taking the said Court and the Sugar union to the Appeal Court in order not to pay sugar workers the wages ordered by the Industrial Court.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTIONS

Three of the outstanding disputes are with companies that have substantial South African connections, Metal Box, Caribbean Packaging Industries and Caribbean Tyre Company (formerly Dunlop). They soon adopted openly the methods of intimidation, and other aspects of injustice with which apartheid is synonymous.

The O.W.T.U. has time and again made public evidence of South African connections involving companies here (not only in times of industrial crises involving those companies). Texaco was exposed as one of the companies before the transfer of ownership to the government and people of Trinidad and Tobago. The government's silence then was as deafening as it is now. In the seventies W. R. Grace or Fed Chem was to be nationalised but in the eighties not only are they still here, the Government has now entered into direct "partnership" with this South African connected Company in fertilizer production. Do we need W.R. Grace that bad?

I must therefore warn the entire membership of the Trade Union Movement that time is running out. Should we fail to *unite now* in readiness for the bitter struggle ahead, then we might as well put in a *massive order for yokes and chains* to prepare us for the *new genesis of slavery and recolonisation*.

I now wish to deal with that malignant tumour embedded in the conscience of the international community, and its affliction imposed on the Industrial and Political relations of Trinago. I speak of the racist regime of South Africa. *The abomination of apartheid can be understated but never exaggerated.* Its continuing existence and its evil and dehumanising assault on the minds and bodies of the Black peoples in particular of South Africa belies any morale and spiritual progress Mankind may claim to have made up till now. Apartheid, more than any other situation (political or otherwise), is propelling us towards a global conflict of such magnitude that the use of the word 'apocalyptic' is not only applicable, but could very well move at any time now into the realm of the inevitable.

There are those among us here in Trinago who disturb me with their complacency arising out of a failure to comprehend how totally uncompromising the stand against apartheid must be. This brings into focus the up-coming tour of the English Cricketers to the Caribbean. To simply say that sports and politics should be kept apart would very well place us in a position of being accused of not only paying lip-service in condemnation of South Africa, but also not being prepared to take any meaningful action whatever to demonstrate our condemnation. Such double standards cannot be condoned and amount to nothing but rank tokenism, plain and simple.

They would not even make serious efforts to educate their own people far more to hold a rally or a demonstration about the evils of apartheid, or to mobilise serious public opinion or organise support for any form of campaign aimed at fighting this menace to humanity. The question is Why? No doubt they would not like a public, questioning the activities of Transnational corporations including banks here which are deeply rooted in and profiteering from the evil deals made with apartheid South Africa and even violate the codes for minimum standards of employment there endorsed by the European Economic Community. The parent Company of Caribbean Tyre Company is one such offender. Does the country really need Caribbean Tyre Company?

ROLE OF BARCLAYS BANK

Barclays Bank (or Republic Bank as it is called in Trinago) has been the target of many international campaigns for its strong financial support of the fascist South African regime. Does this country really need Barclays Bank?

To deal further with the tragic misconception regarding sports and politics in relation to South Africa, let me say that apartheid, with the inhuman degradation it continues to inflict on the black peoples in that country, is not merely a conflict of political positions, *it is a racist creed embraced by the white minority regime of South Africa in an even more frantic and ruthless manner than the founders and followers of Nazism embraced theirs.*

Therefore, any action any part of the world which tends towards the isolation of South Africa and the destruction of apartheid which gives hope to the Black peoples fighting the fascist Botha regime, is action to be applauded and encouraged.

Full praise must go to all those Leaders of the Trade Union movement which have announced their intentions to organise specific boycotts against the British cricket team due to come here soon, and *full praise* to all those individuals and

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LOSS FROM OIL PRODUCTION, PRICE DECLINES FORECAST

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Feb 86 p 3

[Text]

BASED on an estimated daily production of 175,000 barrels of oil, the Government stands to lose approximately \$184 million this year and would continue to lose this amount annually for every (US) \$1 drop in the price of oil, according to Money Managers Limited.

The firm noted that preliminary figures for 1985 revealed that revenue from oil was \$2,291 million, or 37 per cent of total recurrent revenue.

Original estimates of recurrent revenue for 1986 had forecast oil income at \$1,915 million or 33 per cent of revenue. But with the devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar the figure jumped to \$3,222 million or 43 per cent of total recurrent revenue.

Money Managers said it was not clear what oil price was used as a base for Government's revenue projection. Neither was it clear what prices various grades of local crude were fetching on international markets.

However, the firm said it was patently obvious that unless oil prices recover significantly — and that was seeming less and less likely — the Government would face a substantial shortfall in its earnings from oil.

Money Managers noted the precipitous decline in petroleum prices over the past few weeks — a decline that has created a stir among oil

producing countries and the financial institutions that have lent some of them considerable sums of money.

Little Information

It noted that from a price of (US) \$26.55 a barrel on January 6 last, Brent crude, the leading spot or free market grade, closed at (US) \$17.10 on February 14.

While observing that much has been written about the likely effect on both oil producers and consumers, the firm said little specific information has been provided about the implications for this country's foreign exchange earnings and fiscal revenue if oil prices remain depressed.

It also noted that one effect of the devaluation was to place greater importance on oil income since oil was sold in US dollars while production expenses were in TT dollars. Hence projected oil revenue increased by more than 50 per cent — from \$1,915 million to \$3,222 million.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CARONI-SUGAR WORKERS DISPUTE BECOMES MORE HEATED

'Malicious' Fires

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Feb 86 p 1

[Excerpt]

SAN FERNANDO — GENERAL Manager Russel Wotherspoon of State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited said yesterday that the sugar industry was going through a time of crisis and the company was extremely concerned. There were 138 malicious cane fires during the past week.

All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union had not advised the company of any dispute and it was only through the media the company learnt about the work-to-rule and other actions, he added.

Asked whether he believed that the crisis he referred to could lead to a state of emergency in the sugar belt, Mr Wotherspoon said: "I cannot predict that."

Speaking at a news conference held at Sevilla Club, Brechin Castle, he explained that when he spoke about a crisis, that crisis was in terms of Caroni Limited — the effects on the company's crop, projections for the crop, income target and the effects on cane farmers.

Mr Wotherspoon warned that the current industrial relations problem, if it escalated, would affect not only the 1986 crop.

898 Cane Fires

If Caroni and farmers do not reap all the cane and leave cane abandoned in the fields, next year would be one of low yield and production would be low, according to the Caroni General Manager.

Questioned on political interference in operations, Mr Wotherspoon said: "There is no political direction or interference with decisions I and the management of Caroni are making."

Asked whether the regular Police were called in to protect workers who wished to work, Mr Wotherspoon said: "Yes".

He added: "We consider that there is the possibility of a crisis in the sugar industry — a crisis as far as the management of the company is concerned in that our plans and programme for the 1986 crop could well be placed in jeopardy."

He said cars of employees were damaged at Ste Madeleine, workers were being prevented from working and there was a spate of malicious cane fires over the past week — 138 — burning 24,000 tonnes of cane. The company had to abandon 10,000 tonnes of cane. Total number of fires for the year so far was 898.

'Political Interference' Charge

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Feb 86 p 6

[Text]

SAM MAHARAJ, General Secretary of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union, has criticised General Manager Russel Wotherspoon of Caroni

(1975) Limited for saying at a news conference that there was no political direction or interference with decisions he and the management of Caroni were making.

Mr. Maharaj said Mr. Wotherspoon and the company as a whole were carrying out political decisions and in fact there was political interference in the operations of the company.

He referred to a letter dated February 11, 1985, sent by Minister of State Enterprises Ronald Williams to the Chairman of Caroni's Board, Frank Rampersad, regarding the company's appeal against the pay rise award of the Industrial Court.

Mr. Maharaj said that Mr. Williams advised Mr. Rampersad in that letter that Caroni had an obligation to exhaust all the remedies available to it, "not excluding an appeal," before approaching the shareholder to provide the additional funds which the company required. It was a reply to Mr. Rampersad's February 8, 1985 letter. Mr. Rampersad had informed the Minister that following a meeting of the Caroni Board held on February 8, 1985, to consider the decision of the Industrial Court, the Board, by consensus decided that it would not be beneficial to the company to appeal.

Mr. Maharaj recalled too, that Mr. Rampersad had also informed Mr. Williams that the shareholder should be required to provide the funds to meet the award.

From the communication to the Caroni Board by Mr. Williams, it was quite clear that there was political interference, Mr. Maharaj added.

Judges On Contract

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, President of the sugar union, said the Industrial Court should be impartial and free from outside influence in its administration of justice.

"However, it appears to us that Government is trying to undermine the integrity and impartiality of the judges," said Mr. Panday, as he referred in particular to Caroni's appeal against the Court's award.

Asked to comment on certain statements reported to have been made by the President of the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA), W.A. Hilton-Clarke, with reference to the Industrial Court, Mr. Panday said that judges of the Industrial Court were on contract.

Instead of Government giving them security of tenure as in the case of High Court judges, the Industrial Court judges were being appointed on contract. "No matter from what quarter, whether from labour, business or Government, no attempt should be made by anyone to try and influence them," he added.

Mr. Panday, a barrister, said he was somewhat surprised to learn that Mr. Hilton-Clarke said the Court needed to be in tune with the realities for employers brought on by the recent economic past, playing a major role in reshaping compensation packages for workers.

Meanwhile, Trinidad Islandwide Cane Farmers Association (TICFA) has renewed its call for changes in the Board of Directors of Caroni.

The association's general council met on Thursday afternoon at head office, Sutton Street, San Fernando, and unanimously passed a resolution calling for the change.

Panday Remarks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Feb 86 p 32

[Text]

ALL Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union leader, Basdeo Panday, told sugar workers to walk with their "tools of trade" when they go into the sugar fields today to seek work contracted out to mechanical harvesters.

Said he: "We will do all in our power to stop the contracted mechanical harvesters from operating on weekends if it means confrontation."

Panday addressed hundreds of sugar workers in the Ste Madeleine Methodist churchyard on Thursday evening. The workers came out to hear what should be done as the union intensified the struggle to force state-owned Caroni Ltd to withdraw the appeal against the wages and cost of living allowances awarded by the Industrial Court.

Said Panday: "If the cutter/bundlers cannot get work, then

the contractors will also be without work. The agreement says, that contractors should not be employed by the company in areas where company workers are available. The company is violating the agreement on this issue."

Panday told the sugar workers not to handle farmers canes on weekends. Said he: "The cane farmers will understand the situation. We don't want to hurt the farmers. But this is a bigger struggle which transcends the individual farmer. They will understand that sugar workers are in a struggle for wages and this was an important struggle."

He praised the support given to sugar workers by Oilfields Workers Trade Union leader George Weekes, National Workers and Farmers Union leader Raffique Shah and its vice president Boondram Jattan.

He said the cane farmers were sympathetic to the cause of sugar workers. Panday said the Trinidad

Islandwide Cane farmers Association (TICFA) chairman Seepersad Arjoonsingh presided over a "paper organisation" which collected members "here there and everywhere" in order to put up a show before television cameras."

Panday told sugar workers the union will never intimidate or prevent those who wanted to work to do so. Said he: "I have worked very hard to remove thuggery, violence and personal attacks from the struggles of the sugar union. We don't burn down people's houses or smash their cars or beat them up. This was a thing of the past.

"So I regard it as an insult for anyone to accuse us of intimidatory tactics against our own members. My friends, if you want to crawl to work on Saturdays and do overtime, you can do so. But you must not hide to do it. You must walk with your head straight and betray your colleagues and then God be with you if you could live with your conscience," he said.

Shutdown of Company

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 86 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO — THE work-to-rule instituted by sugar workers, which is in its third week, has hit state-owned Caroni (1975) Ltd., to the extent that there is a complete shutdown of operations.

The company was unable to operate its factories yesterday, and today there will be a shutdown as well.

The Brechin Castle and Ste. Madeleine factories milled whatever cane was available on

Friday night and completed grinding-off operations yesterday morning.

A company statement issued yesterday through Public Relations Manager Tony Deyal said the company was unable to offer employment to certain factory and transport shifts yesterday and today.

The employees have cut out overtime and have decided not to work on weekend after completing their 40-hour work week, Monday to Friday, in order to press the company to withdraw its appeal in the wages issue.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ROBINSON INTERVIEWED AS NAR ABSORBS OPPOSITION PARTIES

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 86 p 5

[Article: "The Final Step--One Party"]

[Text] Special conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) takes place today at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union Hall, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain.

The conference is the final step towards achieving total unity of the NAR and has been described by political pundits as "an historical event."

With the coming into being of the NAR, the opposition parties forming the Alliance will cease to exist. These are the National Alliance, which comprises the United Labour Front, the Tapia House Movement and the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR).

The two deputy political leaders are Karl Hudson-Philips, who heads the ONR and Basdeo Panday, National Alliance Leader and Opposition Leader in Parliament.

The NAR constitution also will be presented today and members of the various parties will all become members of the NAR.

Burning Desire

The move towards formation of the NAR began more than two years ago and following lengthy discussions and what seemed to be problems over leadership, consensus was finally reached and last year Mr. Robinson was elected political leader.

The parties getting together had one thing in common--a burning desire to offer an alternative to the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

The four groups within the NAR are of different political backgrounds.

The ULF is a splinter group from the old Democratic Labour Party (DLP). It was traditionally the parliamentary opposition and drew most of its support from the rural East Indian based community.

The DAC was the first PNM breakaway group and its leader (Mr. Robinson) was himself a former deputy leader of the PNM.

The ONR is another PNM breakaway group, led by Mr. Hudson-Phillips who was a top PNM lieutenant.

Tapia, formerly led by university lecturer Lloyd Best, comprised largely academic backroom men. While their ideas were respected they were never translated into votes.

Although the ONR mustered a large following and received 22 percent of the votes in the last general election, the votes were scattered and the party failed to win a seat.

In 1983 in a tentative accommodation, the parties were able to inflict defeat on the PNM in the local government election in PNM strongholds in the East/West corridor.

Then the PNM retained the control of the four municipalities and lost out in the county councils. However, even in the municipalities of Port-of-Spain, Arima and San Fernando, the ONR and the Alliance made inroads, winning seats in the three councils for the first time since the PNM took control of them.

The victories by the "accommodation" opened the eyes of the opposition groups, and unity talks began seriously.

The DAC already had won the general election in Tobago and was also in control of the Tobago House of Assembly.

The results of opposition unity showed the opposition that "something could be done by them together."

And while it could be said that what happens in a local government election will not necessarily happen in a general election, the PNM recognised the signs.

A Warning

Following the local government election, Rep. Overand Padmore, the PNM's spokesman at the time, described the results as a "warning" to the party.

A look at the state of the parties based on votes polled in the 1981 general election shows that the ULF got 61,781 votes and captured eight of the 12 seats it contested. It lost two seats which it held previously, Caroni East and Princes Town.

The DAC contested eight seats polled 15,390 votes and won the two Tobago seats. The other six were contested in Trinidad.

Tapia contested 16 seats, polled 9,401 votes but failed to win a seat.

Overall the National Alliance won 10 of the 36 seats in Parliament.

The ONR facing the polls for the first time that year, polled 91,704 votes but failed to win a seat.

The PNM, with the largest number of votes, 218,557, won 26 seats.

Today's conference brings the parties together under one banner and with one symbol prepared to contest the next general and local government elections.

Below SUNDAY GUARDIAN writer Norris Solomon interviews Mr. Robinson on the unity of the parties.

QUESTION: Mr. Robinson, as leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction, could you give an update of the situation leading up to and plans of the parties for getting together? What generally is the situation and the purpose?

MR. ROBINSON: As you will remember, the NAR was started by a number of parties, the United Labour Front, the Democratic Action Congress, the Tapia House Movement and the Organisation for National Reconstruction, coming together in order to form an effective opposition as an alliance or combination of parties.

Strictly speaking, the DAC, the ULF and Tapia had previously combined to form the Alliance.

So that the major groupings came together to form the NAR.

We started out as a virtual coalition, but the process of unity has deepened or continues to deepen. The population has shown clearly that its wish is that we should move into a unitary party.

The rank and file is of the view that the leadership is reflecting that view and has done so in public statements on the platform. This movement will culminate at the special conference of the Alliance and the ONR (today).

At the conference we will adopt a new constitution which will cement the unity of the parties in one organisation. The parties will be amalgamated into one unitary party, the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

It is thus a significant milestone in the development and the evolution of the NAR and party politics in Trinidad and Tobago.

Election Campaign

We have been working towards a more comprehensive statement of

policy called Platform for Change which will eventually form the basis of our election campaign and will be presented to the country in due course.

QUESTION: What will be the position of the parties after Sunday's conference?

MR. ROBINSON: They will cease to exist. We will then have a grand party, the National Alliance for Reconstruction. All the others will cease to exist.

QUESTION: What about the constitution?

MR. ROBINSON: The constitution has been considered by the executive and the council ... the council of the National Alliance ... and will be presented for final approval at the special conference.

QUESTION: How do you see the situation?

MR. ROBINSON: I think the stage has now been set for the purpose of an effective challenge to the People's National Movement. All indications are that the PNM is on the defensive and it recognises the force of the challenge and that the National Alliance for Reconstruction is well on the way to forming the next government in Trinidad and Tobago.

QUESTION: What is the situation with your election plans and your campaign to form the next government?

MR. ROBINSON: We have a very carefully prepared and detailed plan of action designed to be in a state of readiness for a general election by April of this year. We anticipate that the pressures will increase more and more on the PNM and the political leader of the PNM to have an early election.

Electoral Battle

The economic situation is deteriorating. Finances of the Government are in chaos. The effects of devaluation will be increasingly felt as time goes on. So that the temp-

tation and pressures will be extremely great on Chamber's for an early general election.

QUESTION: Could you elaborate on the plans?

MR. ROBINSON: The organisation is proceeding in the constituencies. They are working very hard on the purification of the list of electors and generally organising for the electoral battle.

QUESTION: How do you view the formation of the NAR, the getting together of the parties as one entity?

MR. ROBINSON: I think that it is a very significant step in the politics of Trinidad and Tobago and has been long overdue. It is quite clear that if there had been a unified opposition to the PNM in the last ten years or so we would have had a change of government.

This assessment is supported by experiences of the 1981 general election, the 1983 local government election, and recent soundings of public opinion polls. It is also supported by the general elections and the House of Assembly election results in Tobago since 1976.

QUESTION: Do you foresee any problems to the amalgamation from the general membership of parties?

MR. ROBINSON: It is not true to say that it was the executive and the leaders' decision to amalgamate. At the last meeting, a conference of the Alliance, held I think in June, a resolution was adopted at that conference by the rank and file urging the complete unification of the parties and my information is the rank and file desire in the ONR, as expressed at its last conference, was in the direction of unification.

My own contact with members of both parties confirms overwhelmingly the desire of the rank and file for unification.

QUESTION: How do you see the present political position in Trinidad and Tobago?

MR. ROBINSON: I think that the mood of Trinidad and Tobago at the present time is definitely that of a society gearing for change. This is clearly reflected in the Carnival celebrations and in the impact made by Senator Lincoln Myers's fast on all sections of the population.

It is a most unusual thing in Trinidad and Tobago for such a step to have been taken in politics, and particularly during the Carnival celebrations. The fact that it was taken seriously and was supported so widely and by such diverse groups in our society and individu-

als is a very significant pointer to the future.

Political Force

Public meetings of the NAR have been well attended, virtually up to Carnival and generally there has been a seriousness demonstrated by the population in Trinidad, particularly at this time, that in my recollection was only present in 1970.

QUESTION: You mention 1970. Do you think there will be a repeat or any similar activities?

MR. ROBINSON: I do not think there will be a repeat of 1970 because, from my observation, the population of Trinidad and Tobago sees the NAR as a channel through which they can express the desire for change and give effect to it.

There is no doubt at all that the NAR has emerged in the eyes of the population as a serious political force with the capacity to bring about decisive change in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recent events have clearly shown that the Prime Minister of this country is a lost soul and he has failed to act decisively on all of the major issues confronting Trinidad and Tobago — a declining economic situation, our relations with our Caribbean neighbours, the issue of accountability and standards of conduct in public life and inefficiency of bureaucracy, as well as failure of industrial thrust in the energy-based industries.

His reputation is at an all-time low in the Caribbean, in Trinidad and Tobago and possible even in his own party. This is precisely because of lack of positive policies on the part of the Government.

The NAR will pursue policies in the direction of Caribbean Unity and Caribbean integration in respect of diversification and broadening the base of the economy and creation of jobs.

In respect of accountability and standards of conducts in public life, we will introduce legislation called for by the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution, which the PNM has deliberately refused to introduce for the last ten years.

Major Programme

We will pursue a more dynamic and purposeful policy in a search for new trading partners an expansion of trade with existing partners, and above all will foster a new spirit of self confidence and self

reliance and the kind of spiritual regeneration that must be the basis that must underline a major programme of reconstruction in Trinidad and Tobago.

QUESTION: With the disbandment of the parties, how do you see the membership of the NAR, in terms of rank and file? How will you endeavour to secure membership?

MR. ROBINSON: In so far as membership is concerned, the constitution provides that all members of the parties to the NAR before the amalgamation will automatically become members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction. On coming into being the National Alliance for Reconstruction will then have its register of members.

Provision will be made for annual subscription as well as voluntary subscriptions and donations. New members will be required to fill in application forms for membership.

QUESTION: How do you view the decision of the other parties (excluding your DAC) to amalgamate as one entity?

MR. ROBINSON: I think it has been a great act of statesmanship on the part of all parties involved and I publicly commend Basdeo Panday and Karl Husdon-Phillips on their readiness to place the interest of the country at large first and foremost in their considerations.

I have absolutely no doubt whatever of their commitment to make the party succeed and to work together with me in the interest of Trinidad and Tobago.

QUESTION: You spoke earlier of preparations for elections. Does that include selection of candidates?

MR. ROBINSON: We are in the process of taking the necessary steps to ensure that is done in time for any snap election.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

NEW MINISTER--New Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs is Mrs. Muriel Donawa-MacDavidson. She succeeds Dr. Basil Ince. Prime Minister George Chambers yesterday requested President Ellis Clarke to revoke Mrs. Donawa-MacDavidson's appointment as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development. Mr. Chambers also selected southerner Mr. John Commissiong as the Senator succeeding Dr. Ince in the Upper House. Dr. Ince was recently appointed High Commissioner to London. Mr. Commissiong, former President of the Trinidad and Tobago Table Tennis Association, is a training officer with the National Insurance Board. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

ENVOY TO CANADA--Retired Hospital Medical Director, Dr. David Quamina, 63, has been appointed Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Canada. Dr. Quamina, who has had a long career in medicine, including hospital appointments in both the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago, was Hospital Medical Director at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital from 1970 until his retirement in 1982. Currently, he is Consultant Dermatologist in the Ministry of Health and Environment. Dr. Quamina was awarded the Medal of Merit (Gold) national award in 1983. His wife, Dr. Elizabeth Quamina, is Principal Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health and Environment. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

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